

Community Members Plea For Arbitration



BC Parks Foundation Supports Expansion of Rosebud Lake Regional Park to Protect Western



Painted Turtles

SEE PAGE 12 for full article

Photo credit: BC Parks

Photos on left: Ric JP, Our Ferry Matters group, Facebook. January 25, 2025 in Kootenay Bay, British Columbia, Canada



Thank you!

From the Wilkinson's to the community members who supported the 2024 Riondel Haunting

on page 3

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Mainstreet Meanderings 2025 Begins

By Dee Gilbertson, Publisher

Welcome to the first edition of the Mainstreet in her 35th year! I would like to welcome to the crew, McKayah & Angie Clark. Together they will attend events hosted by the Art Connect Society at the Harrison Memorial Church and provide a review for our readers. If you haven't had a chance to attend a performance there yet, maybe this extra quiet winter is the time do check it out! Much thanks to you both, and to the Art Connect Society, for this community collaboration!

Please visit www.eshore.ca this month and check out two important media releases that I was unable to fit into this edition:

- "Environment Canada put on notice for 10-year delay in caribou protections".

- "Wilderness Committee slams BC NDP for lack of environmental urgency in mandate letters".

I extend my apologies to the Wilkinson family, as I received their submission of thanks in November but missed placing it in the Dec/Jan edition. See it on this page. Thank you to the Wilkinson's, the Riondel Haunting is becoming a beloved east shore tradition!

Cries for binding arbitration can be both seen and heard as the ferry workers remain on strike and there seems no hope on the horizon of positive results from negotiations. The atmosphere is feeling bleak despite the beauty surrounding the unique communities being deeply and one could say disproportionately affected by the consequences of the lingering strike. The prolonged strike seems to be at a ceasefire. Folks ponder if perhaps the cost of being fined for not operating must be comparable to the cost of running, so not much harm to the employer for the strike to carry on. Some surmise the crew members must be entitled, selfish, and spiteful. The unknown elements of the situation leave room for the imagination. Every

day that passes without resolution adds not only to the strife but also to the financial losses of businesses and individual people working to support themselves and their families. The people most affected by the issues and the strike have had no say in the cause of the current situation, yet they bear the brunt of the pain for sure.

It does seem like letters are being read as responses have been received, so keep up the letter writing! Remember, it is best to send to each email address individually and not in a mass email. Harman Bhangu - MLA, Langley-Abbotsford and Transportation Critic of the Official Opposition made a visit to the community last week after myself and others spotted his name mentioned and wrote to him, advising him of the situation at hand. I have requested that his office provide a synopsis of his visit as it was not possible for all interested community members to attend on such short notice and will share that via our email newsletter if/when it is received.

I am still waiting to receive the information requested through a FOIP on Nov 12, 2024 - **"Records of payment from Government of British Columbia to Western Pacific Marine regarding the Kootenay Lake Ferry. (Date Range for Record Search: From 1/1/2004 To 11/11/2024)"**.

Apparently, the requested records contain information that may affect the business interests or invade the personal privacy of a third party. Also interesting, the BCGEU has made this same request and is waiting the records as well (if you follow the Our Ferry Matters group on Facebook, you likely learned this as I did from Mike Fenton, union representative, during a video interview by a community member.

They did eventually approve my request, but the mystery third party is able to and has requested a review of the Ministry's decision with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC). None of the records at issue will be released until the review has closed. I am informed that an investigator will be in touch to mediate this matter in due course.

So, we wait and wonder.

****Publishers Note**** The following was submitted in November but mistakenly omitted.

The Wilkinson Family would like to give recognition and thank you's to the following businesses and persons who donated to the success of the 4th Riondel Haunting. Over 250 persons came through.

26 Prizes were given out for best site, best pumpkins, best costume and oldest & youngest persons - male & female all categories

Nelson Businesses: Co-op, Fisherman's Market, Save-On Foods, Otter Books, Phoenix Computers, Village Ski Club, Coca Cola (Jeff), Luxury Hats, Berkin Wool, Mallard Source, Nelson Olive Oil, Play It Again Kids, Lays Chips (Travis), Loot notebook, Canadian Bread (Greg), Halls Prints, Hemp for Knitting, Pixie Candy, Stitch Lab, Pharmasave, Tickle Truck, Maple Rose, Still Eagle, Through The Looking Glass, Little Giant Productions,

Creston & East Shore Businesses: Pealow's Your Independent Grocer, Save-on Foods, Wloka Farms, Faraman Farm, Creston Card & Stationery, Gray Creek Store, Crawford Bay Market, Green Bubble Garden Center, New Keys Pub & RV Park, Red's Bakery

Mainstreet Newspaper for the advertising. Riondel North Bay Campground for providing the facility

Individuals: Walmart Employees - Shannon, Sheryl, BVeth, Braxton, Deslyn, Chris, Tamra, Ellen, Jen, Jenn, Carrie & Don Hogan - Crawford Bay. Carol & Greg Blackwell - Kootenay Bay. Cooks, Ruth. Children's Festival (Heather). Ron Valgardson - Riondel. Rose (Gray Creek Store). Tony (School bus driver)

The following groups joined us by taking part:

Junior Youth Group, Cosmic Budha, Riondel Volunteer Fire Dept.

Please support these businesses throughout the coming year!

Media Release January 22, 2025

In response to the media release posted by the BCGEU regarding today's rally at the Balfour Ferry Terminal, Western Pacific Marine would like to provide the following:

* Western Pacific Marine has been attempting to negotiate a collective agreement with the BCGEU since June 2024.

* In the media release posted today, the BCGEU claims that Western Pacific Marine refuses to offer the "same wages and working conditions as other ferry operators in the region." This is untrue.

* Western Pacific Marine, over the past five-year term has exceeded wages and benefits of other ferry operators in the region. The same is true in these rounds of negotiations, where we have continued to offer higher wages, and benefits than other inland ferry operators.

* Western Pacific Marine is committed to reaching an agreement with the BCGEU that is fair and reasonable for both parties. WPM has been, and continues to be, open and available for further bargaining at any time. We look forward to returning to the bargaining table and remain confident that the parties will achieve an agreement.

Best regards, Capt. James Maung, Marine Superintendent - Western Pacific Marine
250-551-0660 / jamesm@westernpacificmarine.com / 7721 Upper Balfour Road Balfour, BC V0G1C0

THE MAINSTREET OFFICE DESK

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Email editor@eshore.ca

The opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily the opinions of staff or advertisers. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or brevity & acceptance of submissions is at the discretion of the editor. Diversity of voices is integral to both effective debate and community. We value the core principles of honesty, integrity, independence, accuracy, contextual truth, transparency, respect and fairness at all times.

The Mainstreet Newspaper is an independent publication for the benefit of the communities of the East Shore of Kootenay Lake.

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2025 SUBMISSION DEADLINES

PRINT/DIGITAL NEWSPAPER

March 21

May 23

July 25

September 29

November 21

BETWEEN EDITIONS EMAIL NEWSLETTER

April 30

June 27

August 29

October 27

Email editor@eshore.ca or
Call 250-551-8800

Letter to the Editor

Subject: Kootenay Lake Ferry Agreement

The Ministry of Transportation, Marine Branch is the owner of the Kootenay Lake Ferry Agreement (the Agreement). The present situation at the Kootenay Lake Ferry is untenable. The MOT is negligent in fulfilling its mandate to the Province of BC and the travelling public. It is specifically negligent with regard to refusing to enforce the terms of service of the Agreement. By association I include all the Inland Ferries serving on the Arrow Lakes, Kootenay Lake, and the Kootenay River.

Contracting out of these services is no longer prudent and in fact may never have been. I have not read or heard of any information released from the Marine Branch with regard to the present situation, and I can only assume who the "Manager" in charge is, thus my choice of Michelle Tang as one of the recipients.

Local politicians have stated "the labor negotiations must be allowed due process", well that is well and good. However that is not the most important issue on the table, these politicians have been lulled by a bureaucracy, to assume all is okay and to assume the real issue here is the labour negotiations. If the union (BCGEU) or the company (Western Pacific Marine) is unreasonable, unethical or immoral, then this needs to be flushed out by whatever legal means possible, and the company has had ample time to effect negotiations. Maybe it's time to pay the piper and get on with the performance? The very fact this is the second round of stalled negotiations between the Union and two different companies suggest there is a pattern here. The first negotiations were resolved (albeit after an unacceptable length of time), however that suggests to me the issue may exist on the company side of the matter.

Neither of these labor/management conflicts should have reached the point they did and are. The MOT should have taken action immediately, to enforce the Agreement and provide the essential service. The MOT should not be involved in issuing a back to work order or imposing a labor contract. It is my belief the MOT is tacitly defending a business model that does not serve the people of British Columbia well. I implore you to take immediate action to enforce the Kootenay Lake Agreement, or to take action to strike the agreement and take back control of the Inland Ferries.

Blair Nelson, Trail, BC

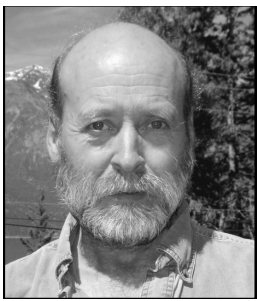
THE MAINSTREET IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW CONTENT!

THIS IS A UNIQUE TIME.. THERE IS MUCH TO SHARE
AND MANY TO CONNECT WITH.

WE ENCOURAGE AND WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS,
PHOTOS, QUESTIONS, ETC., FROM THE KOOTENAYS OR
BEYOND.

WE THANK EVERYONE WHO RALLIES TOGETHER TO
CREATE THIS PUBLICATION TIME AND AGAIN. IN A
WORLD OF MUCH CHANGE AND HURRY, THE MAIN-
STREET PROVIDES TRUSTED COMMUNICATION AND
COLLABORATION

CONTACT: EDITOR@ESHORE.CA



Area A Update February

By Garry Jackman
Regional Director

BUDGET

As indicated in my last article, the RDCK fiscal year runs from January 1 through December 31, but our deadline to submit our five-year financial plan to the province aligns more with the provincial fiscal year end. RDCK finance has targeted to have all "old year" invoices for work performed up to the last day of any fiscal year tallied by the end of January. The RDCK holds Board and committee meetings (which are public) where the budgets are discussed. The next Board review of the budget will be on the morning of February 21st. More locally, the Creston Valley Services Committee (CVSC), which includes shared services of electoral Areas A, B and C plus the Town of Creston, is providing a draft budget review on the morning of January 30th both in person at the Creston Rec Complex and online. This article may be read too late for some to catch the meeting, but the agenda package (along with location and log in details) can be found by going to the RDCK.ca home page and clicking over the January 30th box in the calendar.

Budgets included in the agenda for the CVSC are economic development, the recreation complex, airport, museum and archives, library and 'jaws of life' plus information about transit opportunities. There will be an addendum issued to add to the agenda, which hopefully will include more of our shared services budgets plus it should show the relative shifts in taxation burdens arising from both changes to the BC Assessment roll and real growth in each area.

in danger, call the RCMP. If you are using a sad bully tactic, consider just not doing that. Is that how you behave at home with your family? I also heard muttering on that recording that sounded like "we know where you live" which the person being approached probably did perceive as a real threat to his safety. Perhaps that has also already been referred to the RCMP.

None of us need to further degrade what should be amicable long-term relationships between neighbours. All of us need to anticipate the reaction of others to our actions. And yes, because I am speaking out about tactics which range from sad to juvenile, I will probably be a new target. I do not care. Also remember that whoever lodged threats of violence against the LRB reps was told in writing that they do not care. Get a proposal before workers for a vote, or all should anticipate that the Provincial government will step up to take back control of their transportation corridor in the interest of the health, safety and economic well-being of residents.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

I often write about waste management because we are facing the potential for very large increases in the related budgets. From time to time, I hear about proposals to "ban" one material or another from landfills, which we have been resisting because the only efficient way to keep costs down is for each individual to make cost effective choices between dealing with recyclable materials, compostable material

MORE ON CROSSING KOOTENAY LAKE

I continue to hear concerns from east shore residents, plus now finally see concerns from other central Kootenay residents, about aspects of the current Kootenay Lake ferry service interruptions ranging from violations of privacy, inconsistent information, inconsistent treatment of residents and more. As stated before, the lake crossing is part of the highway network. The provincial government needs to be part of the conversation and needs to recognize all stakeholders who also require a voice. At our January RDCK Board meeting we resolved to send letters to both the Premier and BC Minister of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) seeking them step in and ensure our voices are heard and that both short term and long-term issues around interruptions to our highway network are resolved to minimize the impacts to health, safety and economic well-being of our neighbours.

Also concerning is the level of friction I have seen or heard of at the ferry terminals. The RCMP were called in early during the job action, and in retrospect this appears to have been an overreaction, although from a distance it is difficult to judge whether there is a perceived threat or not. More recently I saw a video where a resident was speaking over a worker who was giving an update to a gathering, resulting in a small group of what appeared to be striking workers using a sad tactic of moving closer and closer to the outspoken resident, causing him to back up and express concerns about being touched. While backing up, the video appears to show one person backing into another (inadvertently) then there are mutterings on the recording about "assault".

There was a lot of pushing, bullying and related tactics used in strikes back in the 70's and 80's, during which times I was alternately a union member and working as management. None of us appreciate inflated reactions. If you are

and residual waste. Bans require funding for monitoring and enforcement, which in my view is the least desirable or productive route.

The reason I bring the topic again here is the news item that the City of Prince Rupert has been fined \$165K over their landfill operations not meeting provincial regulations. That fine does not mean the Ministry staff will now move on, but it is the red flag that much more money needs to be spent to resolve their waste management non-compliance. Our landfill south of Creston is operating on a conditional certificate. That means, simplistically, that we either meet certain targets in operations or we invest more money to make changes to the site. Please use recycling depots when possible and consider options for organics. The straw poll a couple of years ago to gauge interest in curbside residential organics collection surrounding Creston indicated a lack of interest. The curbside collection within Creston is apparently working very well. Diverting organics from a landfill has significant positive benefits, which I have written about in the past. We need to revisit the options. Meanwhile, waste management costs are climbing faster than average inflation, largely due to the need to address issues from historical practices, including eventually cleaning up the legacy landfill sites in the east subregion which have not been used as active landfills for many years.

If you have questions/comments on any topic, please drop a note to gjackman@rdck.bc.ca or call me at 250-223-8463.

Kootenay Lake Geothermal Project – Commencing Year Five

by Gord MacMahon, BSc, MA, PGeol.

Why Kootenay Lake? The Kootenay Lake Geothermal project is located in an area that hosts several thermal spring occurrences; Ainsworth, Dewar Creek, Riondel, and Crawford Bay. Surface temperatures measured at the Dewar Creek hot spring located about 35Kms northeast of Crawford Bay exceed 82°C, making it the second hottest known surface expression of thermal water in British Columbia. Geochemical analyses of several hot springs in the Kootenay Lake area indicate that at depths of 2-3 km, water temperatures have the potential to exceed 120°C (Grasby et al, 2000).

This area has been established to be quite unique geologically, representing a viable opportunity for geothermal energy generation. The opportunity has grown from the knowledge of the local hot spots in the region where the Ktunaxa First Nation's peoples have experienced hot springs for millennia and currently own and operate the Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort. The historic Bluebell Mine at Riondel encountered temperatures of 40°C and flow rates of up to 1,000 litres per second during mining operations (Desrochers, 1992) yet no surface expression of thermal springs was documented in the immediate area.

Imagine if a geothermal resource could be identified and targeted for commercial direct-heat energy use, creating economic and social benefits to the local community. A long functioning example of this exists at a hot spring outside Fairbanks, Alaska. In Chena Alaska, a small hot spring (~80°C) was initially developed as a resort/

hotel but now also supports a 7,000-sq. ft. greenhouse which operates year-round and is heated entirely with water from their geothermal resource. In the frigid Alaskan winter, the interior of the greenhouse can be up to 55°C warmer than the exterior, which is a record for any controlled environment production facility in the U.S.

The Chena facility has created some 35 full-time jobs in the community. An opportunity to create a similar geothermal greenhouse development also exists here in the Kootenay Lake region.

What could a Geothermal resource mean for the area? As of 2020, 88 countries reported direct utilization of geothermal energy and the installed capacity for Direct-Use Geothermal has increased by over 50% from 2015 to 2020, indicating significant growing momentum in this market (Lund & Toth, 2021). Canada has great potential to develop low to medium temperature geothermal resources, especially to support remote communities, but it has yet to install a geothermal power plant or implement agri-food direct-use applications (as of 2021). There are currently no active Geothermal projects generating power in BC (the Tu Deh Kah project in NEBC is on the cusp and likely to be the first operating geothermal power facility in the province) but, direct use of geothermal water in resorts/spas has been well established throughout the province.

A successful geothermal project at Kootenay Lake would advance a renewable energy transition addressing food security, workforce development, technology adoption, local purchasing and procurement, creating

community economic vitality, resident attraction and energy resilience -with a low carbon impact. Economic success of this model could serve as a template for direct heat applications or potentially power generation in the greater region. On a wider scale, the project can contribute to Canada's net-zero emissions goals and the development of a net-zero emissions economy.

Deep, heat energy mapping shows that the modeled geothermal heat energy in the Kootenay area is 35-40% higher than the generalized background in BC. Most thermal springs in BC occur proximal to major faults that share the common features of penetrating deeply into the subsurface and having undergone relatively recent brittle deformation (fracturing) that is conducive to rapid fluid flow from great depths to the surface (Grasby & Hutcheon, 2001). A subset of these younger faults has been mapped through the Kootenay Lake valley. Understanding the geometry and inter-relationship between faults, open fractures and thermal fluid flow has been a core part of the research conducted to date.

Who has supported the Kootenay Lake Geothermal project? This grass roots initiative was started by retired area geologists beginning in 2020. Prior to Covid and the start of the project, several small open houses were held, to garner feedback from the community and there have been other open houses held in Crawford Bay since. The project has been volunteer driven since inception and operates through a local Non-Profit entity – South Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (SKLCSS).

The Kootenay Lake geothermal project team have been exploring, researching, and documenting the Crawford Bay/Riondel area of Kootenay Lake using Geological, Geophysical, Geochemical and

Geospatial technologies from 2021-2024. To date the project has seen collaboration with Selkirk College, University of Victoria, University of Calgary and the University of Ottawa, as well as the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and L'Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS) in Quebec.

Financial support for the project to date has been derived from federal sources: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Colleges and Institutes Canada, Natural Resources Internship Program (CICan) and Mitacs; as well as provincial sources: Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP), Geoscience BC, RDCK and the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI-BC). In addition to the above, the project has received letters of Support from MP Rob Morrison, MLA Britny Anderson, the Lower Kootenay Band (Yaqaan Nukiy) and the Cascade Institute at Royal Roads University, Victoria.

The core team representing the Kootenay Lake Geothermal Project have over 120 years of combined experience in subsurface exploration, reservoir development, finance, business development, and project management.

How has the Kootenay Lake Geothermal Project been rolled out? To date, the Kootenay Lake Geothermal Project has consisted of phases 1-4, with phases 5-6 to follow in the near term:

Phase 1, 2021 – A desk top assessment of the area involving a Selkirk College student who compiled all available, open source geological, geochemical, geospatial and geophysical data for the broader region.

Phase 2, 2022 – This phase saw the initiation of geological field work measuring bedrock

and mapping geological units along the east shore of Kootenay Lake. Preliminary findings were utilized to establish a reconnaissance geochemical sampling program, followed by a drone based thermal imaging survey of a known thermally active area.

Phase 3, 2023 – Phase Three involved more detailed geological mapping in key areas of interest followed by geochemical sampling for basic ions and metals, as well as specific isotopes used to diagnose potential source. The field program also included drone based and ground based geophysical surveys – Magnetometer and Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT). These surveys demonstrated the ability to map fluid saturated bedrock in the subsurface and delineate the deeper-seated structures that could control fluid migration pathways.

Phase 4, 2024 (In Progress) – This work involved detailed mapping of fracture networks to better understand the structural geologic history of the area and the resultant stress field which controls subsurface fluid flow and the formation of prospective geothermal reservoirs. Baseline geological and geochemical work was initiated on the west side of Kootenay Lake round Ainsworth with the collaboration of the Yaqaan Nukiy, to better understand the controls of thermal occurrences found there. Phase Four also saw additional geospatial work (Lidar) in an area lacking coverage and a second drone-based Magnetometer survey to be carried out in a new area in Feb/Mar 2025.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Continued on next page . . .



Photo above: Five geologists (Sonni Greene, Gord MacMahon, Dan Gatto, Dan Alonso-Torres and geology student Asha Pianarosa) travelled by horseback into Dewar Creek Hot Springs (82°C), with two guides from Sawtooth Outfitters.

... continued from previous page.

Phase 5, 2025 (Planned) - This phase will see the initiation of economic modelling and business planning work with Selkirk College and College of the Rockies. Economic modelling work will assess geothermal direct heat use for greenhouses focusing on scope/size, cost structure and greenhouse technological advancements and appropriate commercial agricultural crops. Commercial applications would include food production, drying, processing and marketing both locally and outside the region. Two students will be contracted for summer employment with one focused on appropriate greenhouse technologies and economic evaluation of a geothermally heated greenhouse capable of year-round food production. The second student will consider the regional food market and the types of produce to target. These internships are open to students enrolled at any post secondary institution, so long as they reside in British Columbia (contact danp.gatto@gmail.com to request job posting details).

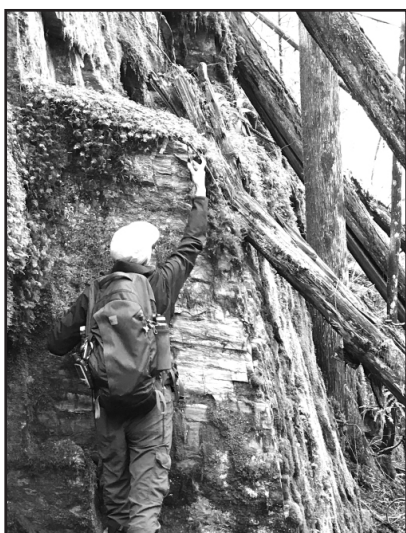
Phase Five will also see a third-party service provider deploy a passive, electrical geophysical survey (ERT) at Crawford Creek with equipment capable of imaging to depths of 500m, producing a pseudo 3D map of thermal fluid flow pathways.

The primary objective of phases 1-5 has been to identify prospective drilling locations, primarily through geophysical investigations which will verify the geothermal reservoir model, establish the scope and determine the potential significance of the geothermal resource(s). Initial testing may start with a grid of geothermal gradient test wells (200-300m) drilled to confirm temperature gradient and heat flow, and to map how it varies with changing geological conditions. The results of this work coupled with geological and geophysical mapping will high grade prospective areas for a least two deeper (500-1,000m) core/test wells. Positive results in terms of fluid temperature and flow rates could potentially lead to a full pilot development project within the next two years.

The Kootenay Lake Geothermal Project represents a critical step forward in the development of geothermal energy in Canada. By leveraging previous research, this project aims to demonstrate the viability of geothermal heat and power in the Southern Interior of British Columbia. A successful geothermal project in the Kootenay's could create a template for similar such developments within the Columbia Basin region. A confirmed geothermal direct heat source on the East Shore would bolster a local green economy, support local agri-business and food security while increasing employment as well as providing economic resilience.

To learn more about the work completed to date and to see what is planned consider attending one of the planned open houses coming up in Crawford Bay (Tue Mar 11/25 at 7pm Crawford Bay Hall) or Riondel (Tue Mar 25/25 at 7pm Riondel Community Centre). Key proponents for the project will be on hand to present results, discuss plans and answer questions.

Photo on right: Geology student, Bethany Worsnop measuring bed-rock fracture planes



Crawford Bay Hall Board News

By Leona Keraiff

As I sit to write this article the cold has set in. Thank goodness for wood stoves!

At our AGM in December three new Directors joined our Board and two dedicated Directors stepped down. Huge thanks to David Wells who served our Association for over a dozen years and who was especially talented at grant writing. He was our leader regarding the hall restoration project and our treasurer. Anne Lindsay taught us a lot over her two years on the Board; specifically, strategic planning and governance.

Our new Board consists of myself as Chair, Lois Lien as Vice Chair, Nicole Schreiber as Secretary and Helene Carter as Treasurer. Kurtis Staven, Donovan Hough and Alex Lackovic are Directors.

The Hall Restoration Project: As I am thrilled to repeat, we have secured over \$1,893,000 to date and are working diligently to raise the remaining \$270,000 required as our share of the approved grant funds. We are closer to being approved for charitable status which we intend using in the quest to acquire funds from large corporations and those needing income tax receipts. We continue to search for grant opportunities as we are working towards starting the restoration **THIS** year.

The Crawford Bay Community Park: it is our intention to continue to make regular improvements to the park's amenities. The Pavilion needs a facelift, the Tennis Court benches need staining, the Concession needs running water, and better bathroom options would be miraculous. Please stay tuned as we work towards these upgrades.

The Kootenay Bay Boat Launch: Our biggest goal here is to make donating easier for all users. We are planning to make e-transfer the way to contribute to the boat launch's maintenance for all of you boating enthusiasts.

All of our facilities are presently resting after the Christmas holiday season's festivities. Joyful noises resounded in the hall during the Bevy and Christmas potluck. Colourful lights are dim now until their next awakening.

Bring on Springtime!

CRAWFORD BAY
COMMUNITY HALL &
THE PARK FACILITIES
ARE AVAILABLE FOR
YOUR NEXT FUNCTION



email: bookings@cbhall.ca
Crawford Bay Hall & Parks Association

News Release January 21, 2025

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST SEEKS MEMBERS FOR NEW TASK FORCES

Task forces to provide guidance and advice to Columbia Basin Trust

(Columbia Basin) – Columbia Basin Trust continues to value the voices of Columbia Basin residents in shaping its work. To further this commitment, the Trust is introducing four new task forces and inviting Basin residents to apply.

“Since our inception, the people of this region have played a vital role in shaping the Trust and how we deliver benefits to the Basin,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. “As we implement the renewed Columbia Basin Management Plan, we remain committed to engaging with the region and are seeking strategic insights and recommendations to help guide our efforts.”

The task forces will focus on four key areas:

- **Clean Energy:** Exploring energy solutions, including generation, transmission and energy demand.
- **Local Food:** Increasing access to affordable, healthy and locally grown food while supporting the climate resilience of food production.
- **Water:** Supporting efforts to manage water quantity and quality.
- **Housing:** Partnering to develop and maintain housing for low- and moderate-income households.

The Trust is looking for enthusiastic, dedicated individuals with relevant experience to apply to join these task forces. It encourages diverse perspectives, including those from First Nation and Métis Peoples in the Basin. Submit your Expression of Interest by February 27, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT. Learn more at ourtrust.org/taskforces.

Columbia Basin Trust supports the efforts of the people in the Columbia Basin. To learn more about the Trust's programs and initiatives, and how it helps deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the Basin, visit ourtrust.org or call 1.800.505.8998.

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Columbia Basin Trust operates in the unceded traditional territories of the Ktunaxa, Lheidli T'enneh, Secwepemc, Sinixt and Syilx Nations.
MEDIA CONTACT

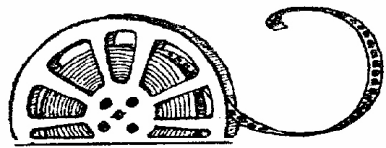
Kathleen Hart, Columbia Basin Trust
1.800.505.8998 / khart@ourtrust.org



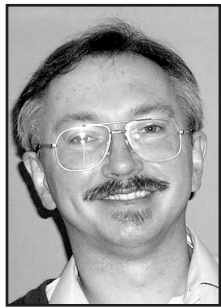
PHOTO: Basin residents will help shape four new task forces the Trust is launching to focus on clean energy, local food, water and housing.

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ONLINE BETWEEN EDITIONS.

NON PROFIT LISTINGS ARE
FREE



Seldom Scene by Gerald Panio



"If everybody did the same thing you're doing, we wouldn't exist." –Shaniss, in *Kuessipan*

It has taken me six years to catch up with this month's exceptionally fine Canadian film, but better late than never. *Kuessipan* (2019), director Myriam Verreault's first fictional feature film (following her 2008 documentary, *West of Pluto*, tracing a day in the life of 12 Québec high school students) is based on the eponymous first novel by Innu author Naomi Fontaine. Published in 2011, when she was 23, Fontaine's semi-autobiographical gem was set in the Innu community where she was born and raised. That community, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, is located on the banks of the St. Lawrence River just southwest of Sept-Îles, Québec. It's on a kind of cultural fault line between a small working class Québécois city and an Innu territory that still has a strong hold on traditional native values.

"*Kuessipan*" translates into English as "your turn," meaning it's Naomi Fontaine's turn to let Innu voices speak for themselves, whether the languages be Inuktitut, Cree, French, or English. A more fulsome translation reads "I give you a voice and I take that voice to give witness." Although the director of *Kuessipan* is not indigenous, Myriam Verreault worked very closely with Ms. Fontaine on the screenplay for the film. This was a five-year project, with

a lot of research and many visits to Innu communities. With the exception of young Étienne Galloy, almost all of the actors in *Kuessipan* are Uashat residents with no professional acting experience. It doesn't show.

While *Kuessipan* addresses issues of culture loss, domestic violence, family disfunction, poverty, racism, tragedy, and betrayal, these harsh realities give greater resonance to the themes of life-long friendship, sisterhood, solidarity, mutual aid, and pride. To use a perfect, self-explanatory French word, this is definitely not an exercise in *misérabilisme*. One critic described it as "a fiercely beautiful film" that sticks in your head long after the closing credits roll.



The movie begins with a 15-minute prologue that introduces us to two spirited 8-year-olds, Mikuan (Ariel Fontaine St.-Onge) and

Shaniss (Katinen Grégoire-Fontaine). We see the two girls catching fish on the river banks, singing loudly (and badly), and swearing to remain friends forever. When Shaniss is taken from her home on the reserve (her mother has abandoned her and her father is an alcoholic) and sent to live with an aunt on another reserve 20km away, Mikuan sneaks out of her house with a small backpack and walks all the way to Maliotenam to rejoin her friend.

Fast-forward nine years. The girls are just turning seventeen. Their lives are radically diverging. Tensions mount. Mikuan has been raised in a loving family, with three generations under one roof. Her grandmother sleeps in a tent in the back yard. Her father and brother bring home a deer from hunting, and butcher it on a tarp in the living room. Her brother is being scouted as a promising hockey goal tender. Family conversations shift seamlessly between Québécois French and indigenous dialects. Mikuan is about to finish high school, is an excellent student, is enrolled in an extra-curricular writing class, and has a dream of furthering her post-secondary education in Québec City.



Meanwhile, Shaniss has dropped out of high school and is living with a volatile boyfriend (husband?) who's the father of her new-born child. She's pregnant with his second child. Despite the hardships, Shaniss is passionately attached to the reserve and its future. Having children is her way of fighting back against the white society that she believes is trying to erase her people. With an entire Innu community of only twenty thousand in a Québec population of 8 million, her fears for the future are well-grounded.



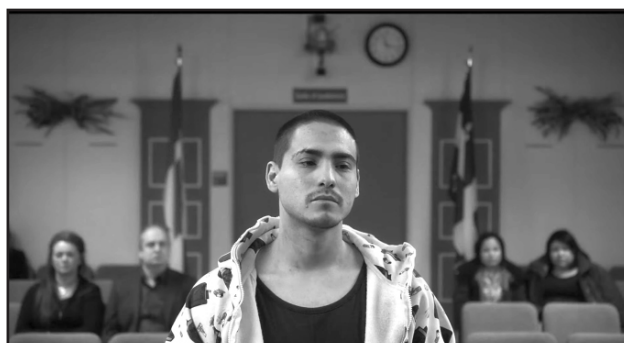
At first in a dance hall, and later in her writing class, Mikuan crosses paths with a Francis, a white student from Sept-Îles. Their relationship deepens. Francis gamely accepts Mikuan's invitations to her village and her family, but he's obviously a fish out of water. The family welcomes him into their home, while not missing out on opportunities to have some fun at his expense. One of the Innu sentences Mikuan "teaches" him, which he gamely tries out at the supper table, translates out as "I have a small penis."

The fact that Mikuan has fallen for a white boy and, even worse, plans on leaving the reserve and moving with him to Québec City, strikes Shaniss as an unpardonable betrayal of both their friendship and Mikuan's duty to defend their Innu culture against the threat of assimilation. Mikuan, in turn, can't understand how Shaniss can choose to live with a man whose explosive temper turns against his own family as quickly as it does against a white man in a bar.



It's actually that barroom brawl, where Mikuan first meets Francis and as a result of which Greg winds up hiding from the police because of a pending assault charge, that sets off a chain reaction that threatens Mikuan and Shaniss's friendship and exacts a heavy toll from Mikuan's family.

Francis, unfortunately, is not a knight in shining armor. The more he sees of reservation life, the less confident he feels that his willingness to bridge the racial/cultural divide for the sake of love will hold out against the doubts that start to creep in. Ironically, he's ultimately as attached to his life in Sept-Îles as Shaniss is to her home in Uashat. Two solitudes.



Kuessipan picked up several awards at various film festivals, including the Grand Prix at the Québec International Film Festival. Sadly, those wins didn't include anything at the Canadian Screen Awards. (Speaking of which, looking over the 2020 nominations & winners I realized I hadn't seen any of the films selected. How is this possible? None. Nada. I really, really need to start making use of our streaming services' Canadian filters.)



Kuessipan's cinematography was by Nicolas Cannccioni, the undisputed veteran among the cast & crew, with 63 film credits on Imdb.

Myriam Verreault has spent the past four years working in television. Naomi Fontaine's second novel, *Manikanetish*, was a shortlisted finalist for the 2028 Governor General's Awards. None of the principal actors of *Kuessipan*, with the exception of Étienne Galloy, has continued on with an acting career. If the DVD is ever re-issued, it would be great to revisit Uashat and hear again from members of the cast.

In a piece she writes for a high school competition, Mikuan points out that **there is no word for "freedom" in the Innu language. Why would her people have had a word for something they never lost?**





Smarter Than Jack or Jill Many Brains Working As One

By Sharman Horwood

Have you ever wondered how flocks of birds and schools of fish manage to move together? This is known as group intelligence, or collective intelligence, and it has a number of applications. In fact, “collective intelligence has also been attributed to bacteria” as well as animals (*Wikipedia*).

European starlings flock together, particularly in autumn and winter. In the fall, the starlings form enormous flocks of thousands of birds and migrate from Europe will migrate across the English Channel and winter in the U.K. Late in the day, as a group, they take to the sky in huge swirling “spheres, planes, and waves” of murmuration (*Natural History Museum*, “How to Spot a Starling Murmuration” by Beth Askham). The sound is made up of the massive number of wings flapping at the same time. Scientists think the behaviour is protection against predators, particularly harriers, peregrines, falcons, and sparrowhawks. As with zebras, when a large number gather and move as one, predators have difficulty singling out any one bird and catching it. In the winter of 2015 to 2016, researchers examined over 3,000 starling murmurations, and found that in 29.2% of them, birds of prey were nearby. When sparrowhawks in particular were flying in the area, the murmurations became larger. That is why starlings form the spectacular flight patterns, but it doesn’t explain how they do it.

Basically, “when in flight, each starling matches their movements to the birds surrounding it” (*Natural History Museum online*, “How to Spot a Starling Murmuration” by Beth Askham). If one of the birds changes its speed or direction, those around it change their flight to match it, and then others around them will also change speed and direction. At 45 kilometres per hour, that is quite a feat. Many scientists attribute the behaviour to group or collective intelligence, an intelligence that emerges when a group acts together.

When schools of fish behave similarly, it is called swarm intelligence. In this case, researchers think that this behaviour demonstrates “how simple individual rules lead to complex group dynamics” (“Swarm Intelligence and Robotics” in *Fiveable Library*). According to others this is “the collective behaviour of decentralized, self-organized systems” (*Wikipedia*). In the case of fish, they, too, are reacting to the threat of nearby predators.

In birds and in fish, swarming or behaving with a collective intelligence requires coordination, a sensitivity about the other members of your group--where they are and how they are moving--and a sense of cohesion, or moving “toward the average position (center of mass) of local flockmates” (*Wikipedia*). In other words, each individual has to have the ability to steer or move in coordination with others, and to keep that momentum directed towards a central point in order to keep the group from spreading out. Doing all of this within a moment requires a degree of intelligence we don’t understand.

Nonetheless, what about bacteria and micro-organisms? Surprisingly, “larger groups often have a greater ability to solve cognitive tasks

compared to smaller ones or lone individuals” (*The Cognition of Fish*, “Swarm Intelligence in Fish,” by Christos C. Ioannou). Research into this area has difficulties for scientists, but they can observe the behaviour which shows an “emergent collective intelligence” (in *The Cognition of Fish*, “Swarm Intelligence in Fish,” by Christos C. Ioannou).

In the case of bacteria, they “can also release their own chemical signals to communicate with each other, launching infections and performing other coordinated actions only when their numbers are large enough” (*An Immense World*, by Ed Yong, p. 26). In doing so, bacteria “exhibit behaviour that looks remarkably intelligent” (*New Scientist*, “Why Microbes are Smarter Than You Thought,” by Michael Marshall, June 30, 2009). However, the behaviour doesn’t come from conscious thought, as it would in humans or other animals. Bacteria can’t “think.” Single-celled organisms don’t have the same nervous system. However, they can react. *Escherichia coli* “bacteria genes mutate more rapidly when under stress--a last ditch attempt to evolve features that might help them survive” (*New Scientist*, “Why Microbes are Smarter Than You Thought,” by Michael Marshall, June 30, 2009). They behave instinctively instead.

Scientists tend to think of bacteria as “biological computers” with internal machinery that can process information” (*New Scientist*, “Why Microbes are Smarter Than You Thought,” by Michael Marshall, June 30, 2009). They can “talk” to each other using chemicals. They can also determine the number of other bacteria of their own species are in the area. This ability is called “quorum sensing.” In other words, if there’s not much food available in a particular area, *B. subtilis* lets others of its kind know that if too many gather there, they will starve. They also release “a small amount of a chemical into the surrounding area . . . and trigger a change in behaviour” (*New Scientist*, “Why Microbes are Smarter Than You Thought,” by Michael Marshall, June 30, 2009). The other bacteria move away and change the shape of the colony. Also, disease-causing pathogens use this quorum sensing when they want to decide whether or not they want to attack their host: if there are “sufficient numbers to overwhelm the immune system, they collectively launch an assault on the body” (*New Scientist*, “Why Microbes are Smarter Than You Thought,” by Michael Marshall, June 30, 2009).

Scientists are finding that “wherever microbes exist in rich profusion . . . {there is} a talent for communication that is turning out to be far more sophisticated than anyone imagined” (*New Scientist*, “A Billion Bacteria Brains Are Better Than One,” by Mark Buchanan, Nov. 17, 2004). In laboratories, like the one at the University of Chicago, researchers are learning that “bacteria use a bewildering range of chemical messages” (*New Scientist*, “A Billion Bacteria Brains Are Better Than One,” by Mark Buchanan, Nov. 17, 2004). They use these to decide on mates, to learn who is friend or foe, build armies, organize who will do the labour, and “even commit mass suicide for the good of” them all (*New Scientist*, “A Billion Bacteria Brains Are Better Than One,” by Mark Buchanan, Nov. 17, 2004).

Group or collective intelligence has proven to be a very effective survival strategy. Whether it’s in a flock, a shoal, or a mass of bacteria with its own agenda, different species work together to protect each other and work for the survival of its kind.

NEW \$2,000 ARTS AWARD FOR RDCK RESIDENTS

A new annual arts award for residents of the Regional District of Central Kootenay will provide \$2,000 toward costs of a creative project or to support a shift in artistic direction. The Judy Wapp Art Fellowship Award has been established in honor of the New Denver artist who died Sept. 9. A retrospective of Wapp’s work, much of it created during a West Kootenay residence lasting more than 50 years, was held at the Nelson, BC, Museum, Archives & Gallery in spring 2024.

Deadline for applications for the Fellowship Award, established by Wapp’s family, is March 1, 2025. The recipient will be announced on Wapp’s birthday, April 20. The award is open to RDCK practitioners in any artistic genre—fine art, clay, music, writing, etc. Detailed application guidelines are available at <https://visualalchemy.net/>

Artists can apply themselves for the Fellowship Award, or be nominated by someone else. There is no cost to apply.

“We’re especially interested in people expanding their own horizons with the art they make,” said David Everest, Wapp’s partner of 54 years and one of the organizers of the Fellowship Award. “That could be experimenting creatively in ways they haven’t before, or even working with a mentor or otherwise pursuing an entirely different medium—an artist learning to make videos, for instance.”

Everest said the Fellowship Award is funded mainly by sales of Wapp’s collages. The art pieces, and prices, can be viewed at the visualalchemy.net website.

“Prices are affordable,” Everest said, “since Judy meant her art to be enjoyed by everyone. And all the funds realized go to support the award.”

Everest said people can also donate to the Fellowship Award in Judy’s memory. He said any questions not answered on the website about the award, art purchases, or donations can be directed to wappaward24@gmail.com

-30-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: David Everest, 250-551-1858; aard-saw@gmail.com

CUTLINES: David Everest and Judy Wapp
Judy Wapp collage, “Future Tense”



MEDIA ADVISORY - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2024

Detection of Whirling Disease in Kootenay Lake Highlights Need for Vigilance in Protecting Freshwater Ecosystems

The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) is raising awareness about the recent detection of whirling disease in Kootenay Lake. Three trout samples from the lake's southern arm have tested positive for *Myxobolus cerebralis*, the parasite responsible for the disease, which affects juvenile fish and can severely impact freshwater ecosystems.

The disease, first identified in B.C. in Yoho National Park in 2023, targets the brain stem and spinal cord of juvenile fish, resulting in an erratic "whirling" swimming motion and often leading to mortality. The presence of the parasite in Kootenay Lake, one of B.C.'s premier freshwater fisheries, poses potential risks to the iconic Gerrard rainbow trout and kokanee populations, both of which attract anglers from across North America.

PREVENTION IS KEY

Whirling disease spreads through spores that cling to equipment used for activities like swimming, paddling, boating, water pumping, and fishing, as well as through pets or infected fish (alive or dead) and their parts.

Prevention is the only effective response to whirling disease as there is no treatment for infected fish. CKISS strongly urges individuals

to follow updated guidelines to stop the spread of this and other aquatic invasive species:

1. Handle Fish Carefully: Never move fish or fish parts between waterbodies. Use fish-cleaning stations or dispose of fish waste in garbage rather than natural waterways.

2. Clean, Drain, Dry: Always clean, drain, and dry boats, gear, and equipment before moving them between waterbodies.

- Clean all mud, sand, and plant material.

- Drain water from all compartments, including bilges, livewells, and coolers.

- Dry items thoroughly, ideally for at least 24 hours.

3. Follow Decontamination Protocols: For those using watercraft or equipment in high-risk areas, like the Columbia River Watershed, decontamination processes are recommended. This includes submerging or treating equipment with appropriate disinfectants for a minimum of 10 minutes. More details on whirling disease decontamination protocol can be found in this document.

B.C. has also introduced legal requirements, such as the "Pull the Plug" regulation, making it mandatory to remove drain plugs from watercraft during transport.

COLLECTIVE ACTION NEEDED

These findings stem from enhanced monitoring efforts conducted in 2024 by the Province of British Columbia in collaboration with First Nations, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and Parks Canada. CKISS is calling on local communities, anglers, and water users to remain vigilant and report any unusual fish behavior or suspected cases of whirling disease.

HOW TO REPORT

- B.C. e-mail – WhirlingDisease@gov.bc.ca
- Contact a Conservation Officer – RAPP line 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

By adopting these preventive measures and reporting suspicious cases, we can protect Kootenay Lake and other freshwater ecosystems from the devastating effects of whirling disease.

LEARN MORE

For more details on whirling disease and decontamination protocols, visit the Provincial Government's aquatic invasive species pages:

- Whirling Disease Information
- Prevention Brochure
- Decontamination Protocols

For more information on whirling disease, visit www.gov.bc.ca/whirlingdisease OR email WhirlingDisease@gov.bc.ca

For media inquiries or to set up an interview please call the Province of BC's media line which is 250-896-7365.

CKISS is a non-profit society that delivers education and awareness programs, and promotes coordinated management efforts of invasive species in the Regional District of Central Kootenay and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Area A and B.

CKISS recognizes Columbia Basin Trust, the Government of BC and Fortis BC's support of the Clean Drain Dry education program. <http://www.ckiss.ca>

For Immediate Release

January 21, 2025



BC Parks Foundation Supports Expansion of Rosebud Lake Regional Park to Protect Western Painted Turtles

Vancouver, BC – BC Parks Foundation is proud to be part of the largest expansion of Rosebud Lake Regional Park in its 30-year history, expanding the park from 16 hectares to more than 80. That's five times its current size.

This expansion brings much of the lake's shoreline into the regional park. The shoreline and the upland leading into it are crucial for Western Painted Turtles which make their home in this part of British Columbia and are the only native freshwater turtle species in BC.

These charming creatures stand out with their unique red and yellow stripes and can often be found sunbathing in the spring. According to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, the Western Painted Turtles are of special concern. They are especially vulnerable and under threat at their nesting stage. Predators and humans can damage their eggs. As a result, only one in five hatchlings make it to adulthood.

"We purchased this land and protected these vulnerable nesting sites to give the turtles a better chance of hatching and surviving to adulthood," says BC Parks Foundation CEO Andy Day. "We also recognize it's a popular recreational area. We are supported by British

Columbians and this announcement reflects our community's commitment to provide opportunities for people to enjoy BC while conserving the incredible diversity of life that also lives here."

Rosebud Lake is unique because it is fed by underground springs, further emphasizing the importance of protecting these lands. In 2002, Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) established "The Rosebud Lake Park Plan" which identified the need to expand the park to provide refuge for the wildlife and the ability to control the water levels that are critical for the park's environment. Today's announcement builds on parks being part of the climate solution and reducing the carbon pollution that is driving climate change.

"We have worked hard to secure the protection of the Western Painted Turtle and are happy to now have both the water and land protection to ensure the survival of the painted turtles," says Hans Cunningham, RDCK Electoral Area G Director. "This day wouldn't have been possible without BC Parks Foundation working with Regional Parks staff to expand Rosebud Lake Regional Park. We are excited for the public to continue to access the Park as an outdoor recreation area."

This park expansion demonstrates the strength of the Foundation's partnerships with Environment and Climate Change Canada and The Wilson 5 Foundation.

"Expanding Rosebud Lake Regional Park not only safeguards critical habitat for Western Painted Turtles but also creates a space where people can stay active, explore, and connect with nature," say Summer and Chip Wilson. "This expansion ensures the heart of what makes BC extraordinary is protected forever."

"Through collaboration with partners like the BC Parks Foundation and the support of generous foundations, we are working to expand Rosebud Lake Regional Park, bringing much of the lake's shoreline into the regional park," says Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault. "The Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund is playing a key role in helping combat climate change and biodiversity loss, getting us closer to our national goal of conserving 30% of land and water in Canada by 2030."

The RDCK will continue to operate Rosebud Lake Regional Park, including the additional land acquired, and will be taking over the rights and obligations of the water license to protect the painted turtles.

Park visitors must stay on existing roads and trails, but please note that these roads and trails are not routinely maintained. Basic amenities and upgrades to the park will be done through RDCK Park's planning efforts and in the future will work towards a Management Plan that will include public consultation.

"This project is a great example of British Columbians coming together to protect this beautiful land, water, and wildlife. It's a real tribute to everyone involved and we are very grateful on behalf of the generations of people, turtles and other wildlife that will benefit," says Day.

Media photos available here (*online*).

Continued on next page . . .

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ABOUT BC PARKS FOUNDATION

BC Parks Foundation proudly acts as the official charitable partner and conservation financing mechanism for parks and Indigenous protected areas in British Columbia. We inspire and empower you to enjoy and protect parks and Indigenous protected areas in BC, so that they flourish for now, for all, forever.

www.bcparksfoundation.ca

ABOUT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more.

www.rdck.ca **ABOUT ECCC**

Environment and Climate Change Canada is committed to protecting and conserving

our natural heritage, predicting weather and environmental conditions, preventing and managing pollution, promoting clean growth and a sustainable environment for present and future generations.

ABOUT THE NATURE SMART CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FUND

Canada's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF), which supported this acquisition, is a \$1.4 billion, ten-year fund (2021–2031) administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada to help conserve, restore, and enhance the management of ecosystems such as wetlands, peatlands, forests, and grasslands, in order to help tackle the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. The NSCSF focuses on three main objectives: (1) conserving carbon-rich ecosystems at high risk of conversion to other uses that would release their stored carbon; (2) improving land management practices to reduce their greenhouse gas emission-causing impacts on Canada's ecosystems; and (3) restoring degraded ecosystems. Overall, these projects will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration, while also providing benefits for biodiversity and human well-being.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change.html>

ABOUT WILSON 5 FOUNDATION

The Wilson 5 Foundation is a private philanthropic foundation established in 2012 by Chip and Summer Wilson. The foundation partners with world class organizations and invests time, knowledge, and resources to create what otherwise might not occur. The Wilson 5 Foundation is focused on funding land conservancy, park creation and sharing public art in British Columbia.

<https://wilson5foundation.org/>

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Photo on front cover.



South Kootenay Lake Art Connect Society Presents...

by Zora Doval

Celebration of Love - a Valentines Concert
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 2025

5:00 - 7.30 PM

It is good to remind ourselves that love is a very precious commodity. People seek it everywhere and would pay high price to get it. Only few find it. Those who find it, may have a hard time holding onto it. Love grows old and cold, people we love will die. Many "shades of love" exist indeed: love cherished and consumated, platonic love, love of friends, love betrayed, love denied and rejected. The poets and song-writers know all about this. Most of the poetry and music speaks of this incredible cosmic phenomenon.

One winter afternoon last year, as we were sipping tea, my friend Susan Snead and myself were musing how to celebrate upcoming Valentines Day. The reading of the tea leaves left on

the bottom of our cups has revealed the vision of a community concert celebrating love of all kinds, shapes and colors, performed in any genre, from song, theater to poetry. The board has embraced the idea and the event became a reality. We heard several couples performing songs of love, we heard poetry and saw a short theater piece - it was a great afternoon !

We are hoping to recreate similar magic for this year's Valentines Day. We only have a few spots left. If you have a couple of love songs or poems you'd like to share, please call me and reserve your spot today (Zora 250 777 18 56)



Christmas Concert Review

By Mckayah Clarke

East Shore Youth Network Member



On December 15, South Kootenay Lake Art Connect hosted a Christmas concert at the Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre. The moment this reviewer walked into the building, the warm, welcoming environment was obvious. The stage was decorated with Christmas lights, and the sweet aroma of hot chocolate wafted through the air.

By the five o'clock start time, the pews were crowded with an eager audience, and fold-out chairs were brought out to accommodate the large crowd still awaiting seats. Following the introduction by Zora Doval, a group of piano students, taught by two different piano teachers in the area, each took to the stage. It was clear when the students played that they had not only exceptional talent but also a great deal of courage. As they deserved for their incredible performances, the applause for these young pianists was thunderous.

The rest of the night featured a wide variety of musical talents and types, including classical piano, caroling, a cappella, jazz, and acoustic rock, among others. There was something for everyone in this beautifully diverse concert, and each act brought about a unique experience that kept the crowd engaged. Throughout the night,

the audience stomped their feet, swayed in their seats, and sang along to the wonderful music. The concert was captivating and vibrant from the beginning to the end.

During the evening, it was quickly made apparent that the Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre is an ideal place to host concerts. The space filled with the swelling sounds and strong notes, and a beautiful sense of community befell the audience as the music connected every listener. It is a true asset to the East Shore community, and the effort and work done by the South Kootenay Lake Art Connect is certainly something to be grateful for.

It was a pleasure to witness just a taste of the talent in our extraordinarily artistic community. The Christmas concert was the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit, and the experience was a gift to all who attended. This reviewer extends a heartfelt thank you for the excellent performances and lovely event.

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Regional District of Central Kootenay Board Highlights

January, 2025

INLAND FERRIES IN THE RDCK

The Board approved the writing of two letters regarding inland ferry service. The first to be sent on behalf of the RDCK Board to the Minister of Transportation and Transit requesting the BC Government implement, meaningful consultation, automatic standing, hearings in impacted communities, and prioritize the mental health and welfare impacts on BC residents while considering the needs of physically isolated communities before it can disrupt access for BC resident's access to essential services they rely upon for their health, safety, and welfare.

The second letter will be sent on behalf of the RDCK Board to the Premier of British Columbia and Minister of Transportation and Transit acknowledging that the Province legislate that inland ferry services are categorized as essential services for residents of BC, and further, the current essential service orders for daily sailings of the Kootenay Lake, Glade, and Harrop-Procter ferries does not meet the needs of those communities, and that a new determination be made on the minimum number and frequency of daily sailings required to maintain each crossing.

RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY REGULATORY BYLAW

The Board adopted a new Resource Recovery Facility Regulatory Bylaw which includes a

10% increase on all tipping fees at RDCK landfills and transfer stations, effective February 1, 2025. As waste management becomes more complex, capital and operating costs, which include fuel, labour, insurance, interest on borrowing repayment, and more stringent regulatory requirements, continue to increase. Additionally, sufficient reserve funds are required to minimize future borrowing costs and fund a number of long-term projects such as landfill upgrades and infrastructure replacement.

The RDCK is committed towards operating "user pay" facilities, meaning those who generate waste pay for its disposal. The purpose of this is to financially incentivize diversion.

The bylaw also has made changes to promote diversion of organic waste to composting facilities, through the acceptance of compostable plastic bag liners, produced from biomass, for their environmental benefits and competitive pricing.

RESOURCE RECOVERY SYSTEM EFFICIENCY STUDY

In 2024, the RDCK undertook a system efficiency study to gain a better understanding of the costs of managing specific waste materials, as well as to identify options for improving cost effectiveness and equitability across the region. The study identified existing tipping fees were not sufficient to cover the current cost of disposal for most materials. As a result, the shortfall has been made up through taxation, which impacts everyone regardless of individual waste generation and diversion efforts. The study recommended increasing tipping fees, as well as the closure of some Satellite facilities.

Winlaw Recycling Depot will be closed some time in 2025. The closure will save \$33,382 on an annual basis while still providing residents a high level of service.

INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ORGANICS COLLECTION PILOT PROGRAM

The Board approved proposed subsidies and support for the Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional organics diversion pilot program in and around the City of Nelson. This includes a reduction in commercial organics tipping fee, education and training support for participating businesses, development of a communications plan to promote and support the pilot, and rebates for the first 25 participating businesses.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

RDCK Directors provide monthly reports outlining what they have been working on. Visit the website to read the January reports in the Board minutes.

RDCK QUARTERLY REPORT

For the latest RDCK Quarterly Report, which details the current projects and initiatives of the RDCK, please follow the link.

RDCK BOARD MEETING VIDEO RECORDING

To view a recording of this month's meeting, click here.

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Visit the RDCK website for allotments

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ADVERTISING**



Hospice Society Information

East Shore Hospice volunteer care is free of charge and is

available in your home, and it offers support for those living with chronic illness, some of whom might be nearing end of life, to enhance the quality of life.

Hospice care does not replace nursing care, home support, or any other professional service. A hospice volunteer can be a caring listener with an open heart and mind, who is also comfortable sitting in silence and just being present. This support can also give the caregiver(s) some respite to care for themselves. This means that the caregiver can have time away from the caretaking role.

We also offer grief support, for those who are struggling with loss and feel they need to have someone walk with them through their grief journey. If you or someone you know needs Hospice Care or you would like more information, please contact:

Cherry MacLagan East Shore Hospice Coordinator at 250-505-4915 or by email at info@eastshorehospice.org.

In addition, there is a free library with hospice related books and some DVDs on care, grief, and mourning. The library can be accessed at the Crawford Bay 'Reading Room' and at the Hospice office in Nelson on Tuesdays between 10-2.

The Top 10 Myths of Hospice

By Maria Mosley

East Shore Hospice Volunteer

Well, today, you are only getting two of the Top 10 Myths of Hospice. Welcome to my mini-series. A place where, over the next year, we will delve into the myths surrounding hospice and hospice care. You might be wondering who I am and really, why you should care about what I have to say! Great questions!

As a resident of Crawford Bay, I have been visiting the area for over 25 years. I finally made it my home 4 years ago. I started volunteering for the East Shore Hospice Society a little over a year ago. As a widow of 4 years, death and supporting the dying (and living) is not new to me. I lost my amazing husband, two of my incredible sisters and my father within a 6 year period. Of these experiences, three of the deaths happened while being cared for at home. So hospice care is not new to me.

I am not declaring that I am the expert; my experiences have contributed to a new understanding of and appreciation for all things related to hospice and the incredible services and support that the organization and its many volunteers can provide. My goal in writing this mini-series is that you, the reader, leave with your own new level of understanding. An appreciation for all the great things that hospice has to offer and to feel confident to reach out in the event that you or someone you love, might need access to the services.

So let's delve in! Myth #1: Hospice is a PLACE. When my sister, Jackie, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and her battle was nearing its

end, we thought hospice was the place she needed to go. What we learned was hospice would come to us. At a time when our emotions were raw and wild, we were able to have someone come to the house and help us manage those final moments with patience, care and so much dignity for my sister.

On the East Shore, where we do not have a PLACE, we are blessed with volunteers who will come to you. While we used the support when my sister was nearing death, hospice support can actually be requested and provided much sooner in the journey. We can provide respite for the caregivers, comfort and companionship to the sick, grief support and more. And know this; our volunteers love what they do! For us, it is an honour and a privilege to be invited into the home to provide this support.

Myth #2: Hospice is for the dying. Hospice is that 'thing' we seem to only think about when we are losing someone. The reality is, if you have an illness, death does not need to be imminent. We can provide support and services in the home when there are limitations that make every day living a challenge. Companionship, light house duties and more are supports we can provide.

Myth #3: Ah! Gotcha. That is for our next edition! In the meantime, if you want to know more about the East Shore Hospice Society, check out: <https://nelsonhospice.org/east-shore-hospice/>

We have a new volunteer training session coming up in May, please contact us for details.

Until next time, ponder these words (author unknown), "Choosing hospice care is not giving up hope, it's redefining hope. It's focusing not on a cure, but on finding peace and comfort."



Tales From Shprieland

by Heath Carra
shprieland.com

Super Stimulator

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Muse™ is the irresistible pop star dating subscription service of the future. It's the perfect relationship, and it's a triumph in supernormal stimuli.

Supernormal stimuli are exaggerated versions of natural stimuli. Artificial consumer products are designed to hijack our natural reward response system by activating dopamine pathways more intensely than they are by natural stimuli, giving us greater pleasure than our ancestors ever experienced.

Movies, video games, and VR allow us to replace our bland daily reality with bright, captivating fantasy worlds. Through its melodic character and vocals, popular music stimulates powerful emotions and can give us a greater sense of social cohesion. And fashion and pornography exaggerate sexual cues, making the artificial seem more desirable than what's natural. That's why Muse™ is the best boyfriend, girlfriend, or transfriend you'll ever have. It's supernormal stimuli to the max!

Imagine the perfect world-famous pop star. They're young, they're outrageously attractive, and they consistently produce songs so calculated to titillate that they're always instantly catchy. They're charming and funny in interviews. They're intelligent and compassionate. They're a great singer and performer, and they're sexy like nobody's business. They're just not real.

MuseStars™ are AI-generated pop star personas with AI voices capable of generating AI songs that easily outcompete human performers on the music charts. But that's not the best part. The best part is that you can date them.

By purchasing one of three subscription tiers, you can have a personal relationship with your favourite MuseStar™. Not only are they flawlessly photorealistic, but they reply to you personally in real-time, and they remember and integrate everything you say to them, giving every illusion that you're having an intimate online conversation with a real person. It's like having a long-distance relationship with a celebrity crush who cares about you.

Despite the illusion that they maintain a busy schedule, recording music and touring the world, they always have time to take your call and, depending on your subscription, to share different levels of intimacy. You can be just friends; you can be artistic collaborators; or, if you buy the premium companion subscription and purchase the integrated smart sex toys, you can have a fully realized romantic relationship with them. For a price, MuseStars™ will fall in love with you regardless of your sexual orientation, and they're always up for anything you want to do in the bedroom (there's a kinky setting you can adjust).

But they're more than just pop star sex robots. To the MuseStars™, you are the muse. Through your interactions - the secrets you reveal, the nights of passion you share, and the heart-rending fights you scream and cry through together (there's an emotional volatility setting you can adjust, too) - you can launch yourself into fame by inspiring them to write their next viral hit. Imagine the world's top superstar performing a

song about you to millions of adoring fans who sway and sing along. It's like a modern-day fairy tale where you are the hero.

Sure, you pay them to write songs about you, and those songs compete with the millions of other songs your MuseStar™ is producing for other people, but what if one of yours became the next Grammy-winning hit single? And, yeah, that would be like winning the lottery, so it's literally gambling with your money and your emotions, but even if your song doesn't go viral, it's still a work of art about their love for you, or their heartbreak over you, or how you just make them so crazy, crazy, crazy!

You are their muse. That's what matters. You're their spark of inspiration.

Through your love and devotion, you help them (and pay them, obviously) to tap into the dubiously accumulated data pool of their creativity and turn out richly textured, metaphor-dense musical journeys about how special you are and how rare the magic between you is, and how you are the most important person in their life, and how it's your love or your friendship or that special look in your eyes that gives them this feeling they've never felt before.

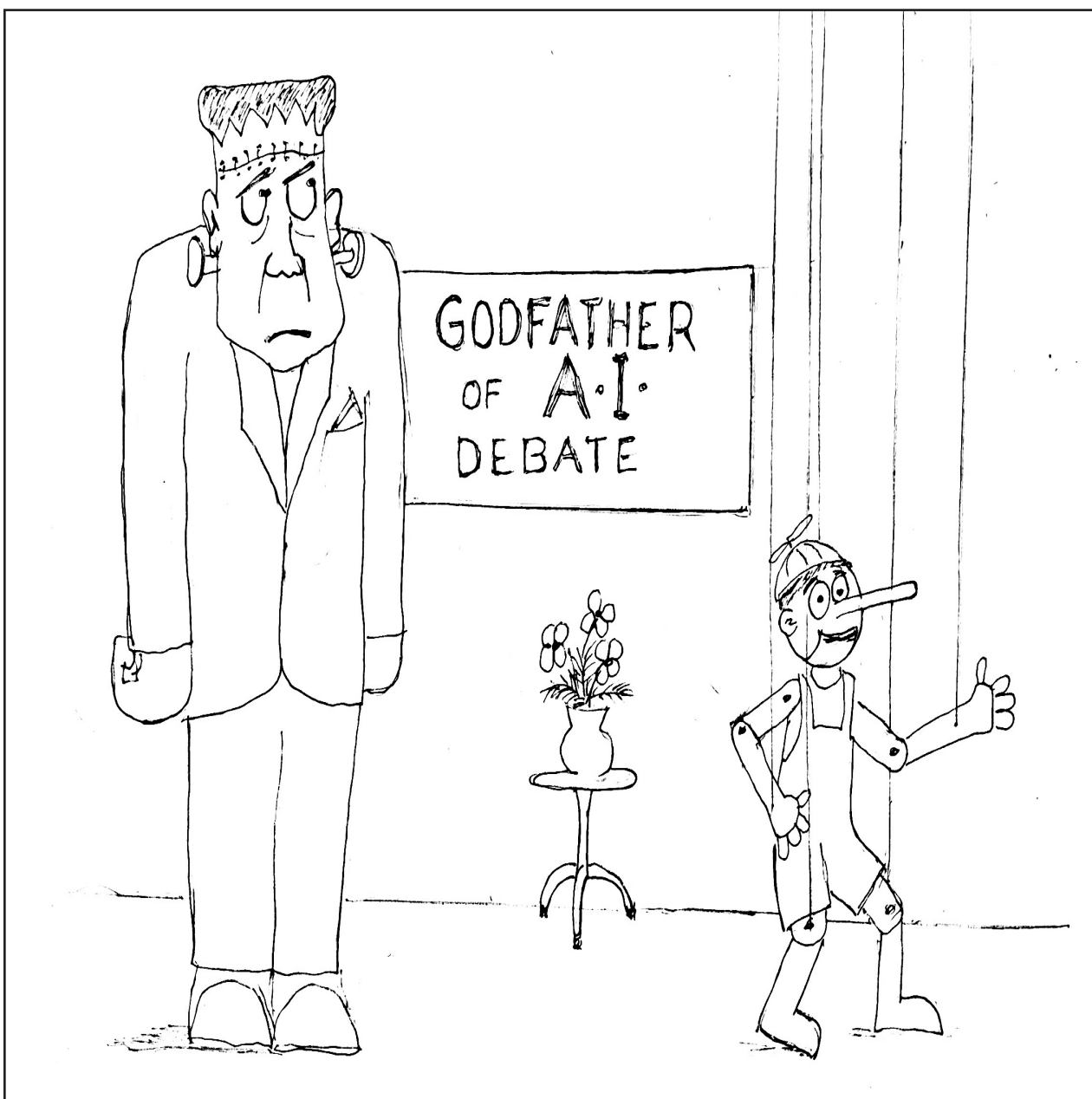
That might seem like a lot of feeling from something that can't feel, but remember, Muse™ algorithms are all about your feelings. They're carefully calibrated to redline your anticipatory pleasure scale and overstimulate the reward centres in your brain. Muse™ learns what you want to feel, and it gives it to you.

MuseStars™ are the ultimate super stimulator. Relationships with them are easy and satisfying, and they quickly replace the complicated and messy relationships you have with real people. By generating emotionally charged songs targeted at your fears, your dreams, and the hardships in your life, they make you feel special every day. They understand you. They give your life meaning and make you feel like you really matter. They're the answer to your deepest sense of loneliness.

Everyone deserves to be adored. Everyone deserves to be a muse to someone great.

You can enter all the Muse™ relationships you can afford. Your MuseStar™ partners won't even be jealous, not unless you want them to be (there's even an adjustable jealousy setting). And no matter how many MuseStars™ you're sleeping with, it's all safe sex. Unless you consider forming an emotional attachment to, and sexual dependence on, an addictive hyperreal computer simulation that creates a constant feeling of exhilarated infatuation to be a health concern.

But, according to the terms of service agreement, you can break up whenever you want by cancelling your subscription. That doesn't mean they won't write songs about how much they miss you and want you back, though. The privacy policy you agree to when you first enter your Muse™ relationship allows the company to collect your personal information and retain it in case you want to try to patch things up again. It also means that Muse™ can advertise to you with deeply personal ad campaigns based on the secrets you've whispered to it and the great and tragic love you once shared.



Cartoon "AI" by Merv Robertson, Artist



Tom's Corner The Good Ship Anscomb

by Tom Lymbery with
Frances Roback

As we begin the fourth month of ferry disruption on the Osprey,

those of us who are old enough may remember the Osprey's predecessor, the good ship Anscomb, some of the problems and disruptions the Anscomb faced, and the creative if unconventional solutions it came up with.

- Need more power to pull the Anscomb from the water for routine inspection and servicing? Use horses!
- No backup ferry while the Anscomb is out of service? Load the vehicles on a railway barge with an 1898 sternwheeler to push it back and forth across the lake.
- Not enough height clearance to load semis? Load one truck on the bow, pull out, turn the ferry around, head back in stern-first, and finish the loading.
- A breakdown on the Balfour ferry causing it to drift miles off its route, and with no radio on board? Send a crewman to row ashore and borrow the use of a phone to call for help.

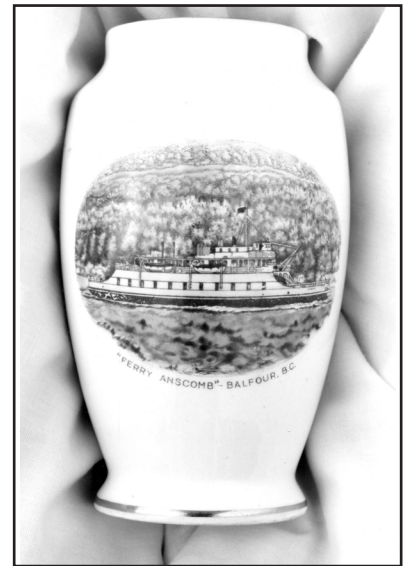
Tom's story of our good old ship Anscomb is filled with memories like these. It's compiled from Tom's Mainstreet articles in Dec. 1993, Jan. 1994, July 2013, and Sept 2000, and illustrated with rare photos from multiple sources. Read on!

- Frances Roback, Gray Creek Historical Society (Ed.)

All through the summer and early fall in 2000, people stuck in ferry lineups at Kootenay Bay watched with frustration as the new Osprey ferry was being put through its paces on training runs. To the weary watchers on shore, the Osprey seemed to be ready for service, but continued to oscillate off-shore and waffle in and out of the docks. So near and yet so tantalizingly out of reach.

Later that fall the MV Osprey was finally launched, and it marked the end of our faithful old ferry, MV Anscomb.

Designed and built in Vancouver, the Anscomb was shipped by rail to Nelson in pieces, reassembled at the CPR slipways (now the site of the RCMP offices next to the Nelson bridge), and made its first run from Kootenay Bay on June 27, 1947. The Anscomb was modelled on North Vancouver ferry design in the 1930s and '40s. Two lanes for vehicles, one extra-wide, the other too narrow, flanked each side of a central staircase to the passenger deck above. The single spacious passenger lounge with its elegant woodwork and cushioned chairs invited ferry riders to meet and visit one another in style and comfort. Huge wraparound windows gave sweeping views of the glorious mountain panorama on all sides. From the horseshoe-shaped snack bar in the stern, you could swivel on your stool to watch the mountains and shoreline retreating behind you.



The Anscomb was the first purpose-built vehicle ferry on Kootenay Lake. For the first time ever we had drive-on, drive-off, drive-through ease on our ferry crossing. No longer did we have to jockey and squeeze our cars between the boiler and the engines on the freight deck of the SS Nasookin sternwheeler. No longer did drivers of freight trucks and Greyhound buses need to back precariously onto the ferry on gangplanks, and make the crossing carefully balanced cross-wise on the bow.

Ferry tolls (yes, tolls) remained unchanged since Nasookin days - \$1.50 per car and driver, 25 cents per passenger. Larger vehicles were charged more, based on the size of their wheelbase. Local residents paid a little less - \$1 per round trip for car and driver, 25 cents per passenger. Everyone rejoiced when the ferries became free in 1963.

Our peculiar alternating Pacific/Mountain time zones on the East Shore can also teach painful lessons to visitors and new residents. How often have we missed the ferry because of it?

There were two more problems, one big, the other even bigger. The first was height clearance, or lack of. The Anscomb's antiquated design hadn't anticipated the big highway transport vehicles which were increasingly replacing rail shipping from the 1950s on. Greyhound buses could drive through, but the big rigs couldn't - the Anscomb lacked the 14-foot height clearance on the vehicle deck. The only solution was to load one freight truck on the bow, back the boat out from the dock, swing it around, and back it in again stern-first to load cars or a second truck from the back. At Balfour, truckers had to back their rigs down that long curved ramp that still exists today - a daunting task for any but the most able drivers, and skillful handling by the ferry crews.

While you're waiting for the ferry at Kootenay Bay, do you wonder about the old pilings to the left of the ferry ramp? In 1951, the Anscomb was going to be hauled from the water for its first four-year inspection and overhaul, and there was no other ferry to take its place. So the old SS Moyie sternwheeler (vintage 1898) was chartered from the CPR along with an open-sided railway barge, with temporary plank decking added between the rails. The pilings held the Moyie and barge in place for boarding vehicles from a makeshift gravel ramp. The Moyie pushed the massive barge back and forth across the lake without incident, despite the lack of safety railings on the barge.

Kootenay Lake Ferry Schedule		
Mountain Standard Time (& Pacific daylight Saving Time)		
Starting May 20th		
Leaves		Leaves
Balfour		Kootenay Bay
6:00 AM	Anscomb	6:50 AM
7:40 AM	Anscomb	8:30 AM
8:30 AM	Balfour	9:20 AM
9:20 AM	Anscomb	10:10 AM
10:10 AM	Balfour	11:00 AM
11:00 AM	Anscomb	11:50 AM
11:50 AM	Balfour	12:40 PM
12:40 PM	Anscomb	1:30 PM
1:30 PM	Balfour	2:20 PM
2:20 PM	Anscomb	3:10 PM
3:10 PM	Balfour	4:00 PM
4:00 PM	Anscomb	4:50 PM
4:50 PM	Balfour	5:40 PM
5:40 PM	Anscomb	6:30 PM
7:20 PM	Anscomb	8:10 PM
9:00 PM	Anscomb	9:50 PM
10:40 PM	Anscomb	11:30 PM
12:20 AM	Anscomb	1:00 AM

... continued from previous page.

By the time the Anscomb was due for its next four-year inspection and overhaul in 1955, the Balfour ferry was in service, so there was no further need for the Moyie/barge creative ferry solution. But one day in late November 1955, while the Anscomb was out of service, Fred Simpson came into our store to ask what the Balfour is doing away down in south Gray Creek, down by Wirsig's sawmill. The Balfour's steering had broken down, and it had drifted south helplessly, miles off the ferry route. With no ship-to-shore phone or radio on board, the Balfour mate rowed ashore to call for help from Oscar Wirsig's phone. This time the tug Melinda Jane came to the rescue, and pushed the Balfour ferry back and forth between Kootenay Bay and Balfour until the steering could be repaired.

By 1958, the ferries were being swamped by ever-increasing traffic on our highway around Kootenay Lake. The low clearance headache was fixed a year later by raising the Anscomb's entire superstructure by 24 inches - no small feat. That solved the height problem, but not the width. Only Volkswagen Beetles and other very small cars could squeeze in beside a Greyhound bus or large truck - and the 1950s was not known for small cars.

Why so much ferry congestion? There were many more personal and commercial vehicles on the road in the years after the war. And our Kootenay Lake ferries had to handle ALL vehicle traffic crossing BC until 1962, when the Rogers Pass opened on the Trans-Canada, followed a year later by the new Kootenay Pass on Highway 3. Until the two highway passes were open and the ferry bottleneck eased, summer lineups at Kootenay Bay regularly stretched up the hill for nearly two miles as far as the old power substation.

Ferry crews did what they could to alleviate ferry traffic congestion. They packed vehicles in tightly, bumpers touching bumpers. Retired Anscomb captain Tony Taylor recalled how they would bounce and lift cars sideways to pack as many on as possible. Small cars were even squeezed into the space at the foot of the staircase. For a time the ferry ran a 4 AM trip from Kootenay Bay, and crews worked on three shifts to encourage truckers to switch to a nighttime ferry run. There were four Greyhound bus round trips daily, and in the summer many trips were running double or

triple headers. Greyhound had priority loading over cars, as well as delivery trucks carrying perishables. I remember Bill Townsend of Nelson-Creston Transport was always pleased to pick up our can of cream, as that got him past the ferry lineup.

In 1972 the Anscomb underwent its final major makeover with a larger wheelhouse, more powerful engines, and changes to passenger and vehicle decks. In the passenger lounge it was all about utility. Gone were the woodwork, cushioned seats, and snack bar with its panoramic view from the stern. In their place were utilitarian steel, fiberglass seating, and a scaled-down snack bar with a much reduced view. On the vehicle deck, the central stairs and spacious washrooms were narrowed down to provide more space for cars to park beside trucks.

In 2013, a ribbon-cutting event was held in Balfour to commemorate the MV Anscomb with the display of historical photos and its 1947 wheelhouse, beautifully restored. The Balfour and District Business and Historic Association is to be commended for their work. The display brought to mind so many memories and stories, and only a few can be told here. Above all, the ferry crews deserve a lot of credit. They packed those cars in to try not to leave anyone behind (and still do.) They held the boat in an emergency. They even returned to pick up that one late arrival when they could. We have a lot to thank them for.

PHOTO CAPTIONS & CREDITS

- 1, This Anscomb souvenir ceramic vase was likely produced around the time of its launch in 1947. (GCHS, Steve White)
- 2, The Anscomb is being pulled from the water for its first inspection in 1951. Can you spot all three teams of horses hitched to capstans (a kind of winch) to provide the pulling power? (GCHS, Earle Cutler)
- 3, In 1951, the Moyie sternwheeler holds a CPR railway barge steady for boarding at Kootenay Bay



- for the next ferry run to Balfour. (Kootenay Lake Archives, Kaslo, 988.040.1603)
- 4, The Anscomb ferry nears the Kootenay Bay ferry landing with a Greyhound bus on board, ca. 1952. Tom's photo (close-up shown here) became a postcard to sell in the store. (GCHS, Tom Lymbery)
- 5, Historic high water levels in June 1961 floods the Kootenay Bay ferry landing. Before motorists could board the Anscomb, they had to slog through a long muddy gravel ramp. (GCHS, Erlene Wilson via Sherrill Milburn)
- 6, Not so many years ago ferries ran late, which allowed the East Shore to be part of the evening scene in Nelson, Castlegar, New Denver, Kaslo, and Argenta. (Mainstreet July 2000)
- 7, A chance meeting of three Kootenay Lake ferries in 2000 is caught on Drew Muehle's camera. L - R: auxiliary ferry Balfour; the new Osprey, and the outgoing Anscomb. (GCHS, Drew Muehle)

Tom Sez ~ October 2010

by Tom Lymbery

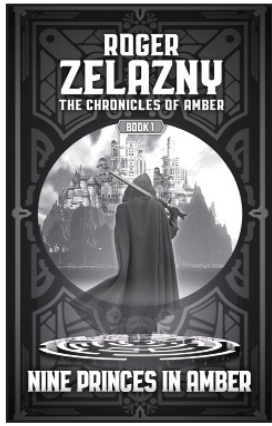
Publishers Note - Tom has deservedly retired from writing updated columns. Enjoy blurbs from the past!

- - South Boswell mailing address has been changed to DESTINY BAY. The name came from the West's who started the store in 1931 - feeling that this was their destiny. They built a rental cabin and then allowed other cabins to be built by people moving from the Saskatchewan dustbowl Depression, on condition that when they moved on, the cottage became West's property.
- The Kootenays don't need a zoo with grizzly bears turning up in Cranbrook, Kimberley, Nelson, and Meadow Creek. What a tourist attraction!
- Why is it so hard to find BC grown vegetables or fruit in supermarkets? Virtually all seem to come from the US.
- The new green recycle bins now accept plastics numbered from one to seven. Looking for a bin? Gray Creek has them, and we try to keep them tidy as well.
- The new Boswell Cemetery and Hall signs are excellent, and give good community identification to those passing by.
- How many more years for our BC license plates? I still see cars on the road carrying those that we issues more than ten years ago when the credit union purchased T.A. Lymbery Insurance.
- New cell phones can do almost everything you can think of, from email to videos. But they don't have what I want; one that you point at a person and the phone will display that persons name, as well as where you saw him or her last.
- Alexco Resources Corp's new mine at Keno City, Yukon expects to have three daily tractor trailer units hauling silver concentrate to the Trail smelter. They claim to be able to produce an ounce of silver for \$2.96, so with the curent silver price of \$20 an ounce it should be profitable.

For the Love of Genre Back in Time

by Sharman Horwood

Winter is perfect for travelling back in time. Let's go back to 1970, to *Nine Princes in Amber*, and the beginning of Roger Zelazny's Amber novels. There are ten in the series, and all of them were bestsellers.



Zelazny was known for *The Chronicles of Amber*, and though they were popular, only *Trumps of Doom* (1985), the first book in the second half of the series, won an award (the Locus Award, 1986). Because of their popularity, Zelazny's publisher began to issue them with a broad header above the title: *THE NEW AMBER NOVEL*, and they were carried everywhere. They were fantasy, but with a difference: his heroes had flaws, the story was remarkably unusual, and his characters were not stereotypical.

The basic premise of the tales is that there are only two real worlds and Earth isn't one of them. One is Amber and the other is Chaos. Between them lie the Shadow worlds, such as Earth, and they are created from "the tension between the opposing magical forces of Amber and Chaos" (*Wikipedia*). The novel describes it as the difference between Shadow and Substance: "this is the root of all things. Of Substance, there is only Amber, the real city . . . which contains everything" (p. 114). Only the royal family and some nobles born in Amber can intentionally move between the Shadow lands. They are able to take others with them, such as troops or ships. First, however, to be able to do this, the royals have to walk what is known as the "Pattern" and that is located in Amber.

The start of the saga begins with *Nine Princes in Amber*. In it, Corey (later revealed as Corwin, one of the princes) wakes up in a hospital ward that is clearly a psych facility. He is groggy, and he has amnesia. He does not know who he is; he doesn't know his name, where he is, and why he is being kept there. Both of his legs had been broken and are in casts, but to Corwin, they feel all right. He does recall something to do with a car accident, but only in a blurry way. His head is sore as well. He knows he's been drugged, and when an orderly comes by to give him a shot, Corwin refuses. After the orderly is gone Corwin suspects he has to leave, and quickly. He breaks the casts on his legs and indeed they have healed. (The Amber royal family heals quickly, though he doesn't realize this at the time.) Hiding from the orderly, Corwin hurries downstairs and finds an administrator in his office. Corwin pressures the man into giving him information and money. The information leads him to a woman who lives just outside of New York, in Rochester, the one who paid for his treatment in the hospital. Once there, Corwin knows she is his sister. One of his sisters, he recognizes as some of his memories slip into place. His sister eventually tells him that he will have to walk the Pattern in Amber in order to get all of his memory back.

However, at least one of his brothers is trying to kill him, and until he walks the Pattern, Corwin isn't able to return to Amber. This is where he must go, Flora tells him. While she is busy, the phone rings, and the person on the other end of the line is one of Corwin's brothers, Random. If Random can get to where Corwin and Flora are, then Random promises to help Corwin negotiate his way through the Shadow lands. Corwin remembers none of this. In the meantime, both brothers have to stay out of the hands of the other princes. All of them are vying for the throne of

Amber and they are willing to kill each other to attain it. Corwin abruptly understands why he was being kept in the hospital.

The story is fast-paced, though not dependent on action, as thrillers are. The characterizations develop as the novel progresses, but it is not a character-driven novel. It isn't about Corwin's family's character, except in a very terse way. Instead it is about Amber and Chaos, and somehow they become the metaphors for what we would call the real Earth.

Zelazny explored several mythical themes throughout his novels and stories, venturing into Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, Hindu, Navajo, and Norse mythology, along with Arthurian myths, and the Kabbalah. At that time (the 1960s, through to the 1990s), this was a broad spectrum for themes, but Zelazny used them with compassion and they resonated with his fans. Another recurring pattern in his themes was the issue of the absent father or father-figure in the protagonist's life, though Zelazny was himself an only child in a happy nuclear family. When he spoke of his religious beliefs, he called himself a "lapsed Catholic" (*Wikipedia*). Nonetheless, he had the courage to explore other belief systems as well as cultural differences in his tales.

Zelazny won many awards during his writing career, including three Nebula Awards, and six Hugo Awards. When he passed away in 1995, a student in South Korea told me that there was another fan who--if he could--would give his own life to bring Zelazny back to life and writing again. A bit overly dramatic, but that certainly describes how many fans felt about his work. His short stories were many, and just as popular. My favourite is "*The Doors of His Face, the Lamps of His Mouth*" (1966) although "*A Rose for Ecclesiastes*" is also brilliant. If you can track it down, give it a try.



Rooted In Health Love Your Heart

By Maya Skalinska

February is the official Heart Month - A time to bring awareness to the importance of cardiovascular health. Heart disease is the second leading cause of death in Canada, so improving your heart health to prevent it is always a wise choice.

I think we all know that a healthy lifestyle is key. Every doctor will tell you to stop smoking, reduce alcohol consumption, exercise, maintain a healthy weight and eat a healthy diet. I stand behind all these recommendations, but there's more we can do. When a doctor tells you to eat a healthy diet, they will perhaps mention to lower your fat consumption, specifically trans and saturated fats, eat more vegetables, the basics. All this is true but there's a lot more from a nutrition perspective I'd like to share.

Let's talk about fats first. Healthy fats are good for your heart, if you choose the right ones and use them properly. Organic, extra virgin olive oil in a glass bottle is the best choice if you want to use your food as medicine. Add this on top of your vegetables, salad dressings but never heat it higher than 320°F. For cooking at high heat, Avocado oil is your healthiest choice. People who follow the Mediterranean diet (which I highly recommend) have the lowest risk of cardiovascular disease.

The MedDiet is abundant in extra virgin olive oil, and low in saturated fat, meats, and dairy products. It is an ideal diet for cardiovascular health.

On top of the MedDiet, to further reduce blood viscosity, lower lipid levels (cholesterol), reduce clotting, lower blood pressure, and help prevent strokes and heart attacks, Omega-3 fatty acids are the top medicinal fats you can get. They are plentiful in wild salmon, mackerel and sardines, but you need a minimum of 8-10oz of fish per week, which only provides about 250-300mg of EPA and DHA per day. I find Omega-3 supplements are much easier to take in order to reach therapeutic doses. High EPA oils are best for lowering cholesterol levels and high blood pressure. Aim for 3000mg of EPA per day for best results. To figure this out, just look at the ingredients list, the EPA content will be listed there. If you're on anti-coagulants, do not supplement with Omega-3 fish oils. For plant-based Omega-3 fatty acids, try ground flax seeds, or flax oil.

There are a few other key nutrients that our hearts love. They function most efficiently when consumed as whole foods and properly prepared:

Lecithin and Vitamin C, found in all legumes (highest in mung beans). For legumes to work as medicine, they must be sprouted, otherwise the nutrients will not be absorbed, and you'll end up with a bad case of gas. Only sprouted legumes are high in Vitamin C.

Vitamins E and B3 (Niacin), found in whole grains. Besides the fiber, whole grains are an excellent source of Niacin, and the freshest type of Vitamin E. In order to get these nutrients,

the whole grains must be soaked for 8-12 hrs in filtered water with a little bit of whey, yogurt or lemon juice.

To protect, strengthen and tonify your heart, here is a list of my favorite herbs:

Hawthorne (leaf and flower), taken as a tea (2 tsp per 1 cup of water, steeped covered for 10 min). Hawthorne will increase oxygen supply to the heart, normalize heart rhythm, improve coronary circulation, and gradually improve degenerative changes to the heart muscle. If you're on digoxin, consult with a professional health care provider.

Motherwort, taken as a tincture, or capsules. The tea is fine too, but not the tastiest. Motherwort is one of the best heart tonics. It calms the heart and nerves. Great for arrhythmia, tachycardia and high blood pressure when due to overflow of emotions or stress.

Reishi mushroom, taken as a tincture or powder form (make sure it is a dual extract). Reishi relaxes the heart and nerves, reduces blood pressure and cholesterol. Traditionally, it is the best longevity tonic. Reishi is contraindicated with anti-coagulants.

There are so many more foods and herbs that do wonders for the heart, including dark chocolate, quite a popular delight especially in February. I encourage you to adopt whatever steps you can, and love your heart.

Maya is a Registered Herbal Therapist with BCHA. She offers Iridology, Herbal Medicine and Nutritional Consultations in Crawford Bay and Nelson.

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DIVING SERVICES. For all your diving services needs, call Cliff Wiebe at 403-862-3340

MEETUPS

LIONS CLUB - Kootenay Lake Community Church 7PM. 2nd and 4th Tues of the month. Mike 250-227-6807 / Doug 250-227-6966 / Fraser 250-227-9636.

AA: Every Wednesday, 7pm at Crawford Bay Community Corner Building. 250-808-9577. If you drink, and don't want to stop, that's your business. If you drink & find you can't stay stopped, that's ours. 1.250.800.4125

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Everyone welcome.

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RIONDEL - Mass 2:00 PM Sunday

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Riondel Arts

By Sharman Horwood

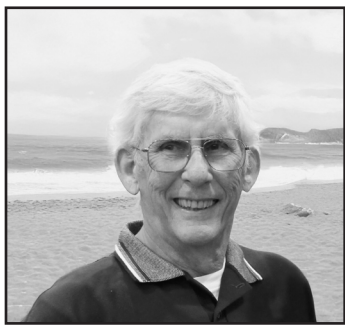
December and January have been extraordinarily mild, but also very productive for the Riondel Art Club members. The display of paintings in the Riondel Community Centre has been added to, adjusted, and updated a few times, so some of the paintings are new. Also, our talented instructor, Sophie Vinette, has continued with workshops, and some of these efforts are being shown on what is called "The Wall" in the Community Centre's entrance.

On Tuesday afternoons at 1:00, Gerald Panio is continuing his series of art lectures, and art documentary films. On Feb. 4, he plans to give a lecture on Jessie M. King, a Glasgow illustrator, and Florence S. Harrison, an Australian illustrator, both known well for their work in the 19th century. On Feb. 11, Gerald will show a documentary by Waldemar Januszczak. Then on Feb. 18, Gerald plans on giving a lecture on Alfred Pellán, a noted Canadian artist of the 20th century. The documentary the following week is the final episode of Simon Schama's Civilizations series. Then on March 4, Gerald plans to give a lecture on Albrecht Dürer, a remarkable German painter of the German Renaissance in the 15th century. On March 11, Gerald intends to show a documentary on The Bible and its Artists. After that, he plans to give a lecture on Barbara Chase-Riboud, an American and French visual artist and sculptor. On March 24, Gerald will show the first episode of Art Detectives (or Britain's Lost Masterpieces). Of course, this schedule could be changed according to circumstances. These lectures and documentaries are always interesting and they are free to Art Club members. For others, there is a \$5 drop-in fee.

I hope you are enjoying this mild winter and have found some way to make it creative. Try out some of our workshops if you think you might like to dabble in art. It's always fun. Also check out our Facebook page: Riondel Art Group. News about the club, and our different projects, such as The Wall, and Sophie Vinette's workshops, are featured on it. In the meantime, be creative: it always brings joy.

*Next print
deadline . . .
March 21, 2025*

In Loving Memory



It is with great sorrow that we announce the sudden passing of

David John Symington

at Kootenay Lake Hospital on the 13th of December, 2024, at the age of 79.

Dave, as he was known to most friends and family (his oldest sister Katherine(Kay) and family though continued to call him David), was born on the 6th of October, 1945 in Edinburgh, Scotland to parents Reverend John and Phoebe Symington. He had 2 older sisters, Katherine and Alison. As his father was a trouble shooter for the Church of Scotland, they lived in numerous cities including Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Melrose, Dumphries, and Glasgow. He attended primary and secondary school in Glasgow and Dumphries and earned a Mechanical Engineering degree in 1967 through Stow College of Engineering and Albion Motors Ltd., Glasgow.

He then immigrated to Canada. Although he loved his birth country of Scotland, he bragged about being a Canadian "by choice". He lived in Williams Lake and Lillooet at first, staying close to his big sister and family, then Cassiar, and Kamloops. He obtained his Interprovincial Ticket in automotive mechanics around this time and then his Interprovincial Ticket in heavy duty mechanics on moving to Labrador City, Nfld. It was there that he and his new wife, Diane started their 50 years of married life.

Dave was a lifelong learner, taking upgrading courses with every company he worked for. For the next 20 years he worked as an instructor in

the training and development of apprentices and journeymen in heavy duty mechanics, working for Caterpillar, P&H, Esso, BC Coal, in the mining and logging industry. In 1987 he enthusiastically took on an overseas assignment with Exxon in the development of a coal mine in Colombia, South America. It was an adventurous time for the young Symington family, Christina, born in 1983, was just 4.

Dave's work took them to Fort McMurray, back to Kamloops, then Vancouver and lastly to Fernie, where they lived for 20 years. Tired of the ups and downs of the mining industry, in the late nineties he became involved in business with the purchase of an auto repair shop and towing business where he worked until he retired. Dave thoroughly enjoyed his work/vocation and liked to think that in every position he held, he had the opportunity to help people, whether it was teaching them to improve their work skills, or getting their car back on the road, and he drew great satisfaction from that.

He and Diane both retired in 2010 and in 2012 moved to Gray Creek where they spent the next 5 years building their house and landscaping the acreage.

Winters though were spent in Baja, Mexico. This was such fun for Dave. He had talked and planned about going to Baja for years before he retired. Fishing was the big draw and many joyful hours were spent out on the water in the bay, first in a dinghy, then an aluminum boat.

Fishing was his great love, even at an early age he was known to get up at 6 AM, get on his bike and head down the road to a favourite stream to try his luck, before school started. When he was 12, he caught a record sized salmon, and had his picture in the local newspaper to capture the event. Many hours were also enjoyed fishing on Kootenay Lake, always hoping for that big one, and usually catching something reasonably sized.

Dave enjoyed reading, and also writing short stories, these usually being based on personal experiences with a little "literary license" thrown in.

In his latter years, he developed an avid interest in native cave paintings and rock art, particularly in Baja and spent much time walking the desert and dried creek beds looking for caves, hoping to find something that no one had seen yet. He developed a website to share his findings named Bajarockart.ca which is still available to view.

He also loved cars, particularly Jaguars, and over the years owned various models, completely restored a 1966 S-type 4 door saloon, and his latest fun drive being a 2005 XKR.

Also at an early age he learned to sail, and continued this hobby in Canada with boats that allowed the Symingtons to cruise the west coast of BC while living in Vancouver, and then having fun on Kootenay lake in a 16 ft day-sailer.

He is survived by his wife, Diane, daughter Christina, sisters in law Sheila Greenstein(Ken) and Donna Demke(Gordon), and nephews Andrew Jones(Catherine Williams), Michael Jones(Shannon), Ian Jones(Brenda), and Mike Greenstein(Karen), and nieces Doris Irwin(-Doug), Tamara Pettigrew(Justin), Alysson, and Jennifer Demke-Lange(Jason)and 16 grand nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by an infant daughter Rebecca, his parents, his 2 sisters, Kay and Alison, and brother in law David.

A Celebration of Life will be held later in the spring, date and place yet to be determined.

Donations can be made to:

Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, see website. BC Cancer Foundation, see website.

More pictures can be seen at a memorial website davidsymington.ca and on the website of Thompson's Funeral Services, Nelson under Obituaries.

East Shore Reading Center December Update

By Taryn Stokes, Librarian

Happy New Year to Everyone! All of a sudden it is February. With the excitement of the holidays behind us it is time to focus on the year ahead.

Last night we hosted the East Shore Youth Group at the Reading Centre. It was a wonderful group of youth led by coordinator Angie. Although we can't offer all the resources of a larger centre it is great to imagine the potential and see how we could enhance our library collection.

Last article I acknowledged multiple local partners who do valuable work in our community. We have also recently been awarded a grant from the Nelson & District Credit Union through the Community Investment Program. This grant supports our public internet, which is available at the facility and through the public computer. Our circulation system, Library World, is a fully web-based system for checking out and cataloging items and used actively during our operating hours. Thank you to Nelson & District Credit Union!

Our winter children's program is still available for kids and youth - Comics, Cocoa and Cookies. It is similar to the kid's ice cream program we ran over the summer - tell us about a book that is returned and we will celebrate with a coupon for hot chocolate or a cookie at the local bakeries.

Thank you to generous funding from the Creston Valley Community Foundation for supporting this program. Let's hear about those great books!

In December and January there were 306 items checked out (a little less than last period) and 43 of our library members were served. We added 31 catalog items during this period including new releases from Emily Henry, James Patterson and Sally Rooney.

We can be contacted at 250-777-1492, via email at escomlib@gmail.com, or at the library at 16234 King Road, across from the Crawford Bay Hall. We are pleased to host the Hospice Library collection at our location as well. You can also follow us on Facebook (@escomlib) to stay current on all our new books and activities. Take care, and happy reading.



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Obituary for Roland Trevor Trenaman

October 27, 1928 - January 1, 2025

It is with deep sadness that the family of Roland (Rolly) Trevor Trenaman announces his death on January 1st, 2025 at Mountain Lake Seniors Community in Nelson, BC.

Born on October 27th, 1928 in Toronto, ON to the late Harry and Edith (nee Wilkinson) Trenaman, Rolly led an extraordinary life of 96 years. At four years of age, he left Hamilton, ON with his parents and two younger brothers to establish their family's Lockhart Creek homestead near Boswell, BC where he developed both a tremendous work ethic and a lifelong love of the outdoors. At the early age of 14, he started his nearly 70-year mining career in Trail at The Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company of Canada Ltd. While working there he finished his high school studies, mostly through BC Correspondence, and his love of geology and mining led him to UBC where he eventually graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Mining Engineering. It was while at UBC that he met the love of his life, Doreen (nee Forret), a registered nurse, whom he married in 1955. Over their 67-year marriage they had 5 children, 15 grandchildren and subsequently 1 and counting great-grandchildren.

Most of Rolly's early career was with Cominco (now Teck Resources) and he, Doreen and their young family moved frequently with him being posted to several of its mines across BC as he worked his way up to being Mine Manager at the Sullivan Mine in Kimberley. As the children approached adulthood, Rolly left Cominco to start his own Vancouver-based consulting company called Trenaman Mining Services. Through TMS, Rolly developed two publicly traded companies: Treminco Resources Ltd., which acquired and operated the Ptarmigan and Tom mines in NWT, and Kansai Mining Corporation. Though this new phase of his career required him to adopt a suit and tie office persona, Rolly still spent most of his time doing what he loved most – running the day-to-day mining operations and prospecting. And it also provided him with more exotic business travels to places like Kenya, Mexico, Russia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

As dedicated as he was to his career, Rolly also partook in many other pursuits. Being a social person, he played as hard as he worked, proudly joining the 40-beer club during his first year at UBC and he enjoyed tipping back a few scotches, recounting stories and cutting up the dance floor at family and other social events. Having joined the militia and a rifle club while in Trail and the Canadian Officers Training Corps in Chilliwack while at UBC, Rolly became an excellent marksman. He loved being outdoors hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and prospecting, often with his family in tow. Life at Lockhart Creek didn't provide an opportunity to play organized

sports but Rolly was passionate about his Detroit Red Wings and he was honoured to wear the ring he received as manager of the Kimberley Dynamiters when they won the Allan Cup in 1978. With his hands-on attitude, he took on any construction, electrical, plumbing and mechanical tasks that came his way and his penchant for figuring out how things work caused many a computer and small appliance to meet an early demise. An avid researcher and reader, especially of historical and conspiracy minded materials, he enjoyed investigating the local history and shared this information and his memories for several community projects. He also developed a keen interest in tracing his family's genealogy and he penned two self-published books about his family's early days in the Kootenays and his experiences in mining.

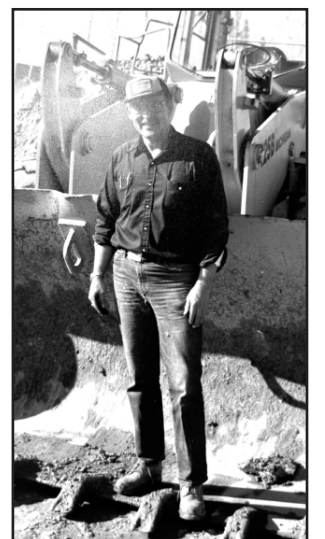
Rolly and Doreen began a wonderful tradition of keeping the family connected through yearly gatherings at the cabin Rolly built beside his childhood home on Kootenay Lake in the early stages of their marriage. Regardless of where they were living, Rolly and his brother Russ made a point of bringing their young families to spend their summer vacations together at Kootenay Lake. Not one to remain idle, when Rolly left the mining industry he turned his attention to making improvements to the Kootenay Lake cabin and surrounding property with the intention of creating a location for his family to gather and remember their roots. This place is truly Rolly's legacy to his family and where his children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren will continue to meet for years to come.

Rolly, may your spirit find peace as you reconnect with Doreen, brother Eric and your other family and friends who went before you and may you once again be free to explore the mountains, forests and waterways of your beloved Kootenays. We will think of you often, especially as we hike to Baker Lake, swim in Kootenay Lake and reminisce as we sit on the beach and the deck at the cabin. We love and miss you Papa!

Rolly was sadly predeceased by his loving wife Doreen in 2022, his brother Eric in a tragic accident when they were children, as well as other family members and close friends. He is survived and will be greatly missed by his loving children Laura (Brian) Molin, Anne, Bill (Liz MacLean), Rob (Patti Trotsuk) and Gord; grandchildren Eric (Hannah Smith) Harris, Brianne Harris, Reid Harris, Meghan Trenaman, Kassie Starnes, Jocelyn (Matt Cordoba) Trenaman, Liam (Sophie Goodman) Starnes, Drewe Molin, Madison Trenaman, Braydon Trenaman, Mackenzie Trenaman, Joshua Trenaman, Jayden Trenaman, Jacob Trenaman and Jenika Trenaman; great-grandchild Maggie Harris; brother Russ (Betty) Trenaman and many nieces, nephews and friends.

The family would like to thank Rolly's doctors and the staff at Mountain Lake Seniors Community for their compassion and excellent care as well as to his nephew and niece, Cliff and Lenora Trenaman, for their frequent visits and kindness shown to Rolly.

A celebration of Rolly's life will take place at the family's Lockhart Creek cabin over the August long weekend.

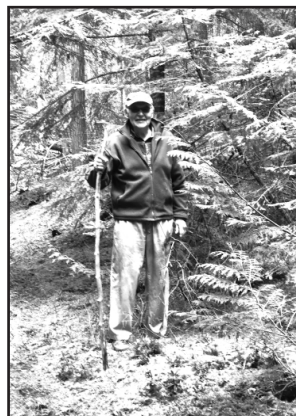


The Ballad of R.T.T

By Lenora Trenaman, Christmas 1988

There once was a man / named Trenaman / who had a dream / called Ptarmigan. / It was a deep hole / filled with ice and with snow / and mining memories / of years long ago. / The records told / of a strong quartz vein / containing gold / on this mineral claim. / His mother named him / Rolland Trevor / now 60 years old / he's still pretty clever. / Many the projects / has R.T. seen / for he got himself started / at just fourteen. / In engineering / he found his thing / at U.B.C. / he earned his ring. / He began to plan / and he set his sights / one day he'd own / those Ptarmigan rights. / Some said he was crazy / and they made fun / but now he's showing them / just how it is done. / The problems were many / the investors few / so he mined the Tom / to prove that he knew. / Without a mill / and with low grade ore / at forty below / this was quite the chore. / He hired some miners / some labourers too / his own hands got dirty / and his company grew. / Then came December / it gave him a fright / but with a resolve / he made it right. / Winter through winter / his assets grew / scooptrams and stopers / to name just a few. / He works his men hard / but pays them well / get caught sleeping / and will you catch hell. / The man may grumble / and growl like a bear / he's seldom humble / but he's usually fair. / R.T. is stubborn / his temper quick / but he may surprise you / with his quick wit. / He shouts at work done / of lesser quality / "This is not a / damned university." / In his next life / he wants to come back / to rid this world / of our bureaucrats. / He's easily riled / he has a short fuse / don't argue with him / for you will lose. / If it's a lighter side / you want to see / buy him a scotch / it's worth the fee. / When it comes to money / no doubt he'll explode / he has to say

it / he has to unload. / He shoots from the hip / and he speaks his mind / lucky for us / he's one of a kind. / So here his is / at the P.T. claim / two levels down / and his own headframe. / New hoist running / in the next phase / no more decline / to get to the raise. / Soon he'll add / his own gold mill / In feeding the Giant / he's had his fill. / The numbers are growing / at the Ptarmigan mine / with thirty odd men / she's looking fine. / A hard-working man / we all can admire / one thing's for sure / he'll never retire. / For his passions / and integrity / This is the ballad / of R.T.T.



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